Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Further Reportage on 'Hermann' Incident

Castro Greets Returning Crew

FL0202174190 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, this afternoon received the 11 members of the "Hermann" merchant ship attacked by a U.S. Coast Guard cutter. [Video shows people singing in the background and chanting: "Long live Fidel! Long live the revolution! Socialism or death! Fatherland or death, we will win! Thirty-one years of the revolution and onward!"]

Visibly moved, the sailors greeted our commander in chief. At the foot of the plane's steps, they reaffirmed their revolutionary principles and their decision to die before they allow our sovereignty to be sullied. Fidel asked for details of the events.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Castro] We want the people to know the details.

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, of course, of course.

[Castro] We want them to know how it happened, how you acted against that felony, that cowardly act.

[Speaker] It was a cowardly act.

[Castro] We want the people to know the measures you took, how you maneuvered to prevent them from boarding the ship. We want them to know what you did when they got close.

[Speaker] When it is time for the revolution, you will be accompanied by men such as these. What do you, personally, think?

[Castro] I did not notice anything extraordinary. This is something I expect from them.

[Speaker] [Passage indistinct].

[Castro] They acted naturally. They demonstrated our people's bravery. Anyone else would have been surprised. I wasn't. What you did... [interrupted by applause]

[Speaker] You are with us. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rallies Support Speech

FL0302132490 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1212 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Statements of support for the speech made by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro at the ceremony held to receive the crew of the "Hermann" merchant ship demonstrate the unyielding will of the Cuban people to construct socialism.

Thousands of Cienfuegos residents have met in Marti Park to denounce the U.S. provocation, while in Villa Clara, meetings of support are also being held. Some of the most repeated expressions in Matanzas demonstrated patriotic pride and satisfaction for the positive actions taken.

Other mass rallies have been held in Ciego de Avila, Las Tunas, Holguin, Camaguey, and Pinar del Rio, where representatives of the working class and youths spoke. In Sancti Spiritus, the people agreed to stress that the commander in chief [word indistinct] and exposed the arrogant actions of the Yankee imperialists.

Commentary Critcizes U.S.

FL0202165690 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Roberto Agudo commentary from the "Tele Diario" newscast]

[Text] Good morning, comrades. The second floor of the White House, where Bush's office is located, is once again a silent witness to an arbitrary response to a repugnant act of aggression, which describes the harassment and strafing of a merchant ship by a U.S. Coast Guard cutter. This action can be compared to facism, and Bush can be compared to his counterpart and teacher, Adolf Hitler.

On that same second floor of the White House, the invasion of Panama was launched on 20 December with only three words—let's do it—and 2,000 people were killed. On this occasion, as on the other one, the President of the United States did not seek advice nor did he try to obtain a different point of view. Now, as then, the facist totalitarianism of a facist president of a facist government was implemented.

The order to strafe the "Hermann" marked another stage in the schizopherenic process of the criminal transformation of Mr. Bush, who reportedly reacts very poorly to criticism, particularly to any remarks on incompetence, absurdity, or abnormal behavior. The attack on the merchant ship fits into the framework of the dangerous U.S. escalation in the use of weapons, premeditated provocations, and the current U.S. Administration's alienating triumphalism. Only a little more than 30 days ago, that administration decided to shoot at two Cuban posts in the outskirts of the Guantanamo Naval Base, a territory that has been usurped and maintained against our will. On four occasions, the U.S. Administration also approved the arbitrary arrest of Cuban Ambassador Lazaro Mora in Panama. It then approved the attack on a small merchant ship, an act which merits repudiation.

The savage aggression, in addition to being an attack against free trade, is a blatant violation of the most basic international law. According to shipping laws, no one

can board another ship in international waters. As has been denounced in our continent and in others, any such attack is improper, illegal, absurd, and impermissible. Never in this part of the world has a ship's crew from another country, in this case from the United States, ever committed such a treacherous and cruel act of piracy.

The strafing of the "Hermann" is a blatant violation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea signed in 1968. That agreement established the legal framework for navigation, as well as guaranteed security in seas throughout the world. With its act of piracy, Washington also violated the naval military actions of states at sea. It did damage to the principle of renouncing the use of force, because once a warship makes contact with a merchant ship, it has no right to apply this principle. It remains to be said that the Coast Guard, the Pentagon, and President Bush trampled on others' human rights with their savage operation by endangering the lives of the crew of the "Hermann." This and other reasons have led to Cuba's anger and the growing continental repudiation of this repugnant act.

In conclusion, this vulgar aggression has been an important lesson, especially for the United States. Instead of scaring anyone, as Fidel said, the strafing of the merchant ship has increased the people's courage. The comrades of the "Hermann," like many other brothers, made the United States remember what will happen if one day it makes the crazy mistake of attacking Cuba. The United States may have many weapons, but it lacks the courage. We have more than enough courage and other things in Cuba.

Thank you.

Alarcon Seeks UN Condemnation

FL0302033690 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0332 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Cuba is making efforts to convoke the UN Security Council to seek a condemnation of the U.S. Navy's attack on a merchant ship leased by a Cuban enterprise. Cuban representative Ricardo Alarcon has been meeting with members of the council to explain the reasons the Cuban Government is requesting the intervention and condemnation of the UN Security Council. Alarcon, who will preside over the UN Security Council throughout the month of February, said the Cuban Government is seeking a condemnation of that dangerous act of international piracy and repairs of the material damage caused by the attack. According to the analysts, the U.S. Government will not be able to stop the meeting of the UN Security Council; however, there is no doubt that the U.S. Ambassador will veto any agreement condemning the attack against the "Hermann."

Official Hopes for Condemnation of Panama Action

FL0302151990 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1204 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri has expressed the hope that the UN Human Rights Commission, meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, will condemn the U.S. invasion of Panama. In general, it seems that the majority of the members of that organization want to fulfill their duties without any political pressures, Roa Kouri told PRENSA LATINA [PRELA]. In regard to that climate and despite arguments between Cuba and the United States, there is displeasure among the members, because Washington once again wants to impose talks on something that is simply political vengeance against the Cuban revolution, Roa Kouri said.

The Cuban diplomat's remarks are directly related to the U.S. attempts to introduce the topic of human rights in Cuba at the Geneva meeting, PRELA said.

Commentary Views Bush Speech on Panama

FL0302003090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] In his most recent speech, U.S. President George Bush described the troops who invaded Panama as brave men and women who successfully completed their mission. What a shameful statement. Bush is attempting to present the crime as a heroic feat, and his boastful words are an insult to Latin America. Proof of this can be seen in the total failure of Vice President Quayle's tour. Only three governments of the continent stooped to receive and listen to the empire's envoy. This represented a big diplomatic failure for the United States. Obviously, the misgovernment of Panama was among the three governments that did receive Quayle.

The U.S. President seems to be trying to close the Panama case. We can see that he is in a hurry to do this; however, it will not be easy for Bush to make us forget the Yankee feat. The world must know that the real number of dead Panamanian civilians continues to be undetermined, that most of the bombs dropped by the Yankee soldiers in Panama were dropped on low-income neighborhoods, that the U.S. press is suggesting that the plan leading up to the invasion was longer and more premedidated than reported, and that even to this day, the occupation troops continue to hunt down anyone suspected of being a supporter of the former government. The human rights of the Panamanian people have been shamefully trampled and violated by the Yankee invasion, by President Bush's brave men and women. The United States must be forced to answer to the world for this crime.

Country Begins Term as UN Council President

FL0102202890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Today Cuba will assume the presidency of the UN Security Council for a 1-month term after having been elected a nonpermanent member of this highest UN body by an overwhelming majority. From its first session, held in London in 1946, to the present, the Security Council has had to deal with a very complex task: the maintenance and preservation of international peace and security. To carry out this primordial responsibility, the UN Charter grants it a number of prerogatives that range from the partial or total interruption of economic and political relations with the countries involved in a controversy to sending troops from the member states to the areas in conflict. The so-called "Blue Helmets" have been present in southern Lebanon, the Arab territories occupied by Israel, and Namibia, among other places.

The Security Council consists of 15 members. The PRC, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom, and the United States have the status of permanent membership. The other 10 members are elected for a two-year term by geographic criteria. The presidency of the body falls in turn on the member states following the alphabetical order of their names in English.

One of the most polemical aspects of the functioning of the Security Council is without doubt the veto right the UN Charter grants to the permanent members. This clearly antidemocratic privilege has been challenged by most of the nations represented at the UN because it has permitted criminal actions, such as the American bombing of Tripoli and the American aggression against Panama, to go unpunished.

Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, first vice minister of foreign relations and Cuba's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, asserted that our country will continue its work in the Security Council so that the Third World and nonaligned nations can carry out their duties dynamically and coherently, and will constitute a real force within the United Nations.

Culture Minister Continues Visit to Ecuador

Meets With President

FL0202140090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja and Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart met in Quito to analyze topics of bilateral and Latin American interest. During their talks, the two leaders expressed their interest in increasing Cuban-Ecuadoran cultural exchanges. They placed special emphasis on the possibility of exchanging technicians and expertise in restoring historic monuments in the capitals of the two countries.

Yesterday afternoon, Hart visited the Guayasamin Foundation at the invitation of its creator, the famous Ecuadoran painter, Oswaldo Guayasamin.

Comments on TV Marti

FL0202152590 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart has said in Quito, Ecuador that the U.S. project known as Tele Marti directed against our country is aggressive and violates the nation's sovereignty. He added that Cuba will respond. During a discussion with Ecuadoran writers and artists, the Cuban minister said that the television project plans to use Cuba's radio spectrum without the consent of Cuban authorities. This constitutes a violation of international law and national sovereignty, said Armando Hart, who added that the project will be responded to as an act of self-defense against a flagrant violation. The Cuban culture minister stressed that we have the technology to confront the so-called Tele Marti, but we should emphasize that this is a colonial aggression that could become a problem with unforeseen consequences.

Addresses U.S. Offensives

PA0302154990 Havana International Service in Spanish 1402 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart has stated in Quito that the invasion of Panama, the blockade of Colombia, and the attack on a Cuban ship in the Gulf of Mexico by the United States are actions that can only be explained in President Bush's dinosaur head.

The Cuban leader noted that Latin America must prepare itself to fight its true enemy: the United States, a country that continues to use the old methods—economic intervention, military invasion, and gunboat diplomacy—which were thought to have ended.

At a news conference held in the Ecuadoran capital, Hart said that the Cubans are more democratic than the North Americans. He added that in Cuba, the principles of the French revolution, liberty, equality, and brotherhood have been taken seriously.

In his visit to Ecuador, the Cuban minister met with President Rodrigo Borja and inaugurated a monument to Cuban national hero Jose Marti.

Concludes Trip

FL0302192690 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1912 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart today concluded his visit to Ecuador after inaugurating a monument to Jose Marti and meeting with high-level government officials and intellectuals.

Hart said the results of the trip were positive regarding the strengthening of bilateral relations, which he described as excellent, especially in the area of culture.

At the ceremony inaugurating the Jose Marti monument, Ecuadoran and Cuban authorities stressed the Latin American ideals that were established by Simon Bolivar and enriched by Jose Marti. They also expressed the need to expand the region's unity in connection with these ideals.

During his four-day visit, Hart met with Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja, Education Minister Alfredo Vera, and Quito Mayor Rodrigo Paz, with whom he discussed the possibilities for cultural exchanges between Cuba and Ecuador.

Program on Workers Federation Congress Concludes

FL0202210090 Havana Cubavision Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Part Two of the "Memories of a Congress" program on the 16th Congress of the Cuban Workers Federation held 24-28 January in Havana—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [First unidentified speaker] Based on calculations we made, based on an entire, very painstaking study we have been conducting for two years about the country's savings for cement reserves, we propose to reduce the cement consumption by eight percent for 1991, and by 10 percent for 1992. [Words indistinct] that the ministry has offered, this would mean that in 1991 we would have 220,000 tons more, and 250,000 tons more in 1992; these estimates are quite conservative.

In addition to the construction plan for those two years, this proposal would permit us to build 25,000 more houses, 10 hospitals with 300 beds each, 100 cattle-raising complexes with 288 animals each, 640 hotel rooms for tourism, 10 pig-raising complexes with 1,990 animals each, and 20 polyclinics. Even after this, there would still be some cement left in reserve.

We are basing these calculations on the fact that from 1980 to the present, the Ministry of Construction [MICONS] reduced its consumption index from 720 to 443, saving 276 kg of cement [figures as heard]. This is equivalent to approximately 40 percent of MICONS' reduction. We are simply proposing to reduce cement production by eight and 10 percent in two years, to give a total of about nine percent. This volume of cement would also allow us to save 188,000 tons of oil. This is why I wanted to make these proposals and submit them to the consideration of the delegates, who in fact are the workers. At the fundamental level, they will also have to struggle to achieve these goals. We cannot make savings a simple slogan; we cannot call it a simple desire. We must create systematic control procedures through which we could—also systematically—determine what we achieve.

[Castro] In what year was your consumption index 720 kg?

[First unidentified speaker] In 1980.

[Castro] 1980?

[First unidentified speaker] Yes.

[Castro] It was not 1985, but...

[First unidentified speaker, interrupting] No, 1980.

[Castro] Tell me, why was 720 kg used?

[First unidentified speaker] Commander, 720 kg were not used. When you add the sand, stones, and water, 720 kg does not fit in one cubic meter, which is one meter by one meter by one meter. This is a physical problem.

[Castro, interrupting] Where did the 720 kg go?

[First unidentified speaker] Some of it went to...[changes thought] One of the reasons is that enterprises lent cement to each other. Consequently, such loans were added to the concrete the enterprises were already using. Other enterprises were involved in other kinds of (?diversions). Others...[rephrases] For example, the cement silos often—and this was something we had to discuss in great depth with the materials industry...[rephrases] There have been times when one silo with 15 tons has lost two tons because of the dampness that occurs inside the silo. You should know that MICONS allows 40 trips per silo per year. If only two tons are lost on each trip, that makes 80,000 tons [figures as heard]. We have been able to reduce this to a minimum.

[Castro] How many trucks per silo per year?

[First unidentified speaker] 40,000.

[Castro] How much was stolen?

[First unidentified speaker] Well...[pauses]

[Castro] You did not mean to say that it was stolen?

[First unidentified speaker] Well, approximately 70,000 tons were lost in this way. That is what we have calculated.

[Castro] Through theft?

[First unidentified speaker] Through theft, well...[rephrases] We will not say it is theft. I would consider the cement that is taken from the projects as theft.

[Castro, interrupting] [Word indistinct] tremendous disorder.

[First unidentified speaker] No, theft is what is carried off from the projects. Here, I think there was a lack of control. It was caused by indifference on the part of by those who received the cement, and they did not measure or weigh it. Right now we have set up scales throughout the country, and it is now obligatory to weigh the cement. Theft exists, Commander. For example, when we are building something and someone comes at night, they take away four or five sacks from any building project. It is also theft when a loan is made and is not repaid. And there was theft, there was diversion.

[Castro] There was also waste, Viterbo [only first name given]?

[First unidentified speaker] The waste resulted from the custom that was introduced in the country of using the cement as a sealer. The sealer is...[rephrases] Once you finish with a machine, you make any size hole, then pour concrete into it until the outer portion of the foundation has been filled. So, through a resolution, we stopped that practice. Cement is not meant for that.

[Castro] The rubble was eliminated for...[pauses]

[First unidentified speaker] We have been struggling with the rubble [words indistinct]

[Castro] Has the cyclopean concrete been eliminated?

[First unidentified speaker] It has not been eliminated.

[Castro] Was it eliminated at that time? Or did you stop using it?

[First unidentified speaker] We stopped using it. Why did we stop using it? Because unfortunately, part of the reason was the inconvenience involved, as well as not wanting to handle the 25 or 30 cm stones and put them inside the concrete mix. This led to the reason for not this type of cement. And now we have been able to discuss and sign with the designers of the waterworks first....[rephrases] We have already started with all the dams and all the industrial projects that have large foundations for the use of the rubble. This year, with the rubble, the ministry may reach 250,000 cubic meters of concrete. Of this 250,000, we think that about 100,000 are cyclopean concrete, which means a savings of 30,000 cubic meters of concrete.

[Castro] What do you mean when you talk about reaching 250,000 cubic meters—250,000 cubic meters of what?

[First unidentified speaker] We will have 250,000 cubic meters of concrete in the plan for dams for 1990.

[Castro] Ah, exclusively for dams?

[First unidentified speaker] Yes, for dams. I am talking about dams for the rubble. We are now calculating the volume of concrete for the industries where there are foundations. For example, a foundation in Antillana de Acero must have 8,000-10,000 cubic meters of concrete. [Word indistinct] we are fighting so that they will use the rubble in those foundations.

[Castro] That gives you an idea of what was being wasted.

[First unidentified speaker] That gives some idea.

[Castro] That is incredible.

[First unidentified speaker] And what could be done [words indistinct]?

[Castro, interrupting] They were stealing it, they were loaning it, they were giving it away. It is impossible. The people of Blas Roca [Calderio Contingent] are using 380 kg of cement per cubic meter of concrete. This is almost half of that outrageous figure of 720 kg that was being used at one time—an indication of the terrible system of management we had.

[First unidentified speaker] The consumption indicator of 443 that MICONS had last year in 1989 is an indicator that includes the cement used for concrete and the cement used for mortar.

[Castro] For mortar?

[First unidentified speaker?] Yes. We have waged a strong fight to eliminate this procedure. The cement must be measured for each activity that is carried out at the building site. This is the only thing that can tell us with certainty what is being [words indistinct]. We cannot mix apples and oranges, pears, or guavas. To mix the cement that is used for one thing, the cement that is used in the prefabricated units, and the cement that is used for mortar is totally improper.

[Castro] What news do you have on the use of cement?

[First unidentified speaker] We have been in contact...[changes thought] At the last meeting that the cement-saving committee held, Commander, the only organizations that could report savings were the Army, the Ministry of the Interior, and MICONS. We have now begun very tough work on this issue. The first thing we have to know is how much people are using. We cannot continue to say we use so many thousands of tons in millions of pesos. That is an indicator of consumption for the nation's economy.

[Pedro Ross Leal, chairman of the organizing committee for the 16th CTC Congress] Consumption was in millions of pesos. This was one of the aspects of the system of management....

[First unidentified speaker, interrupting] That was a mistake.

[Ross] The use of cement was measured in millions of pesos of buildings. But there are buildings that use quite a lot of concrete, and there are buildings that use less concrete. And so some had extra cement, and possibly others came up short. Well, anything else?

[First unidentified speaker] No, I simply wanted to repeat that the leadership of the government should also evaluate what...[rephrases] I think it should deduct this amount of cement from the builders in 1990; [words indistinct] 1991 and 1992 it is not going to provide us with this.

[Ross] The proposal has been made.

[First unidentified speaker] In addition this is the only way that the people really... [changes thought] This puts

in tension [as heard] all the forces with time, all the ideas; we can resolve this with the assets we have.

[Ross] OK, we are going to pass this proposal you are making to the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers. All right? Do we agree? Well, let's vote on it.

[passage omitted] [Second unidentified speaker] With four types of tobacco, we lose four million pesos just in the purchase and selling of it. This has seriously affected the economic activity of our organization. We have worked hard...[rephrases] We are working with the soil problem. There are enterprises that are in charge of working on this problem. There are also problems with the workers we mobilize. We are working in 16 management units. We hope that the harvest in salute to the fourth party congress will partially resolve the problem of the wrapper leaf [capa] in our country. We have a good example. For the harvest in salute to the second party congress, we grew 11 percent of the wrapper leaf in 3,800 caballerias of tobacco that were planted in the province. For the harvest in salute to the third party congress—which was the second harvest for which we reached our goal—we grew seven percent of the wrapper leaf. The last harvest we completed—this the one for which we received P17 million to solve the situation—we only grew three-tenths of a percent of wrapper leaf. This means that we exported 356 quintals of tobacco and motivated the peasants with a lot of money. At the moment, we are having problems mobilizing the workers to work in agriculture. We mobilize our force of 12,000 for agricultural activities, state as well as private activities. However, the peasants want to be able to pay the workers that enter this field at 20 cents per tobacco unit. The state can only logically pay eight cents. This means that the price laws have caused problems for the tobacco activity in the province.

[Pedro Ross] You are talking about the price resolution?

[Second unidentified speaker] Yes, for prices...

[Ross, interrupting] The tobacco price was increased to improve the quality of the wrapper leaf, which is the main problem the tobacco industry workers complain about. When there is not enough raw material, it affects the work and investment of the tobacco worker.

[Second unidentified speaker] That is right.

[Ross] Explain why you said this was affected.

[Second unidentified speaker] You see, first of all, the price law for fine tobacco, which is the one that is used for export...[changes thought] The price law deals with quintals. We can tell you that with the foot-pound of the sol de vega fine tobacco, we lose P19 in the purchase and selling of it. We buy this tobacco at P280 and sell it at 238; we lose P42 right there with the purchase and selling of it. However, there is another problem. It is more beneficial for the peasant to obtain ordinary tobacco, which weighs more than the fine tobacco which is exported. Since we deal with quintals, the law protects us in that. I think this is one of the problems we must analyze, examine. We know work is being done in this. However, a prompt response is necessary to attain the levels of wrapper leaf we need.

[Castro] What you are addressing is an important problem. It is a price system that has not encouraged the quality, but rather the quantity of tobacco.

[Second unidentified speaker] That is right, Commander.

[Castro] However, we must have here the delegate representing agriculture. We must have the people who invented or proposed that price system. We must also have the peasants. I imagine they are here, and we should listen to their opinions. We should see if they did a good job in analyzing the consequences of the implementation that price system would have on the economy, or on the quality of the tobacco.

[Ross] Comrade Carlos Perez, agriculture minister.

[Perez] Commander, the information the comrade has-...[rephrases] We believe some of his concerns are justified. However, in the case of the covered tobacco, first of all, the price system is not based on quantity, but on quality. The purpose of the price increase was to have the price of the tobacco be the same as the cost. That is to say we wanted to increase the cost [as heard], and then have additional increases based on quality. In Pinar del Rio Province, we have had to [word indistinct]. This is because we did not grow wrapper leaf for export, so the peasants did not do too well.

We have had to discuss with the comrades of the bank and with the party comrades the need to plant the wrapper leaf again. Some of them did not want to plant it because the price mechanism that is based on quality and not quantity did not encourage them to grow it. Generally speaking, the other price mechanism also provides for a price increase based on quality and quantity. This has allowed Pinar del Rio, for example, which did not plant the normal 5,000 caballerias of tobacco, to have one of the highest harvests in the country. We had 989,000 quintals [rephrases and corrects himself] That is to say, we had 889,000 quintals. This means that aside the fact that in certain areas where there could be problems like the comrade mentioned—which we could review and analyze—generally speaking, the price policy is based on quantity, but it is especially based on quality. This is especially true in the case of the wrapper leaf. They have had a series of problems.

The comrade is correctly reporting all the work that the Pinar del Rio workers are doing to recover the areas and improve the quality. That is why Pinar del Rio today is one of the vanguard provinces in the production of smoking tobacco. The province substituted a series of components that were used in the soil for the covered tobacco to improve it. Very careful, serious, and responsible work is being done to improve the quality of tobacco there.

[Castro] Is it more beneficial to plant this tobacco over the other one?

[Perez] Commander, it is more beneficial if the quality is attained. It is more beneficial if they attain the quality for exporting it, which is the principle on which the price policy is based.

[Castro] However, the comrade was saying that better quality had been attained in previous years, but that now a certain percentage of good quality was low. Why was that?

[Perez] Commander, a study was made because there are weather factors which affect this, as well as the work of the men. For example, here in Havana we had better results. This year, they grew 10-12 percent of wrapper leaf for export. However, in Pinar del Rio during the last two or three years, they have not been able to grow it. The university is doing a study. We have increased the production of smoking tobacco. We have increased fertilizer. We have controlled the weeds. We have done all the work that is necessary to grow the wrapper leaf for export.

[Third unidentified speaker] If the peasants and the cooperative worker grow the needed level of wrapper leaf, they will be in good shape with the prices they are given. The cooperatives...[rephrases] Like Carlos Perez said, we have had to go there often to discuss with them the need to plant the wrapper leaf tobacco. They do not want to plant it.

[Castro] Why not?

[Third unidentified speaker] It is not beneficial to them. It is not useful to them.

[Castro] Why not?

[Third unidentified speaker] Because they cannot get the quality the price demands.

[Third unidentified speaker] Well, like Carlos said, we believe there are some factors that affect this. The temperature for the covered tobacco is a factor. Commander, I think that the main thing is the soil. The soil has been deteriorating for several years. Like Carlos has said, I think they have done a very efficient job with the university committee that has been created. We discussed with the peasants that each one of the activities the committee proposed should be carried out. We and the Ministry of Agriculture are systematically checking those activities. They even...[rephrases] When we discussed that it was necessary for the economy of the country to plant the covered tobacco, they proposed to remove the covered tobacco and plant the sun-dried tobacco instead, because that is what is beneficial to them. This is convenient to them because even though the sun-dried tobacco demands quality...[rephrases] The sun-dried tobacco growers have gotten better quality.

The peasants and the state, in the case of Pinar del Rio, have not been able to grow the wrapper leaf. We are doing everything the committee recommended. We are working very hard to improve the soil. My opinion is that if we improve the soil as is required and like the committee told us to do, I think we should be able to grow the wrapper leaf the country requires, unless we have a difficult year with the temperature.

[passage omitted] [Castro] If we scare him off, he would never return again. The country would be giving up one of its most important economic resources. We are not an oil-producing country, but we do have some marvelous beaches. We have air, we have clean water. [Words indistinct] are thrown in the Mediterranean. The waste from 140,000 factories in Europe runs into the Mediterranean. We have a tremendous resource and not a resource that [word indistinct]. We are connecting all the keys. We will exploit Cayo Largo, Cayo Coco, Cayo Sabinal, Cayos Romanos, Santa Cruz, all those places. That is, it is not going to be a tourism of prostitution, or gambling, but healthy tourism.

I think that if all our potential is developed, it should provide jobs for hundreds of thousands of workers. When it is completely developed, it should provide income for billions. This is a type of work that is not as rough as other work our people have to do to live. They must be well-trained people. There must be...[changes thought] In addition, we start from the fact that no other country in the Caribbean or the Third World has the levels of training and education that our people have. In practically all those hotels, people who have completed a minimum of 12 years of school are going to work. I am referring to the new hotels, mainly those hotels that are joint ventures. The workers will have a minimum of 12 years of school, and there will be many university graduates. The wages will be high, especially for those who are working in joint venture hotels. All are going to have a good income. And this will also depend...[changes thought] Perhaps some day they will be equal.

Haiti

Coalition Reacts to Avril News Conference

FL0202174590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The National Alliance for Democracy and Progress [ANDP]—composed of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, and the National Patriotic Movement of 28 November—says it has noted with interest the explanations the head of the military government was trying to give yesterday during his news conference on the lifting of the state of siege and the rescinding of the measures restricting citizens' rights that accompanied it. In its news release, the ANDP expresses its satisfaction with these measures, which it says constitute an important first step toward the necessary normalization of the political climate.

According to the news release, the ANDP—several of whose leaders and militants were, like those of other political parties, victims of physical brutality and verbal violence on the afternoon of 20 January—approves of the chief of state's having ordered an investigation into the conditions under which the numerous slip-ups, which General Avril insisted on deploring, occurred.

The ANDP seizes this opportunity to salute both the courage and strength of character of Serge Gilles, Francois Benoit, and Dejean Belizaire, three ANDP members who distinguished themselves by their exemplary conduct during this ordeal. Further, the ANDP hopes the head of the military government will henceforth pay close attention to the matter of Haitian citizens' rights and will watch to see that the government's acts remain, under all circumstances, in conformity with the principles of the UN covenant on human rights, principles to which Gen. Avril reiterated his support once again yesterday.

The ANDP also hopes that the investigations into the assassinations of Ti Will [Radio Cacique journalist] and Colonel Neptune ordered by the government will yield concrete and credible results as quickly as possible and that suspects will be tried in conformity with the law. The return without delay of a climate of freedom and security throughout Haiti is an essential condition for the normal progress of elections. Gen. Avril has once again invited political parties to become involved in them, both by debating ideas and by means of a broader and more active presence in the political arena.

In this connection—continues the ANDP—we were very attentive to Gen. Avril's statement reaffirming his intention to stay out of the elections and declining any responsibility in what has thus far resembled a campaign, in favor of a change in the provisional nature of his mandate at the head of the government. We have noted with satisfaction the passages regarding the full decision-making autonomy of the Electoral Council, particularly the monitoring of the electoral operations by independent international observers. The ANDP has never deviated even an inch, regardless of the hazards of the juncture, from its profound conviction that the only peaceful, logical, reasonable, and constitutional way out of the situation of political malaise and economic stagnation [blocage] in which the country has been thrashing about since 7 February is the holding of unfettered, honest, democratic elections that will allow the Haitian people to choose their leaders themselves. Once again today, we reaffirm this conviction, which is, furthermore, broadly shared by all citizens throughout the world, both in the West and in the East, regardless of money or knowledge. Thus, we invite all true democrats and patriots, all those who do not fear the verdict of the ballot boxes, to join us in asking the Electoral Council to accelerate its pace and take all useful steps to ensure the regularity of the electoral process and the credibility of the results.

Claude Makes Statement on Avril Presidency

FL0102185090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The Reverend Sylvio Claude, president of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH], announced 30 January that he will not participate in any elections in Haiti held while General Prosper Avril is president. Claude is demanding that Avril resign. Rev. Claude explained that he is still underground for reasons of security, despite the lifting of the state of siege.

[Begin Claude recording, in Creole] We think the time has come to notify all Haitians and friends of Haitians that this government is no longer in its proper place, that this government must hand over power immediately. That is what we are asking.

I want all Haitians to know that your brother Sylvio Claude is here. He is under the protection of the Lord God. I do not think anything will happen to me. We are struggling from where we are to obtain our freedom as soon as possible. We ask foreign powers to collaborate with the people, to liberate them, the way they collaborate with other peoples to whom they have given freedom. Thank you. [end recording]

Workers Group Says 'Avril Must Step Down'

FL0202181090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers [CATH] says that Avril must step down. The members add that elections are not possible under Avril.

Despite the lifting of the state of siege, CATH's members think the dictatorial practices of the 1960's under Francois Duvalier are returning. CATH says the government is installing secret agents everywhere to manhandle and humiliate honest citizens. With the special measures taken last 20 January, General Avril showed clearly that he is a worthy student of Duvalier, says CATH.

CATH, whose headquarters is on Rue des Casernes, protests the expelling of members of the opposition and would like to see them return to the country. CATH is also demanding the release of all persons taken prisoner during the state of siege as well as the three men arrested on 1 November 1989—Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Evans Paul, and Etienne Marineau.

CATH calls on leaders of political, democratic, and people's organizations to hold roundtable talks to formulate a common strategy that can put a check on the policy of the current government.

Communist Leader Advocates Coalition Government

FL3101195590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1500 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer, in French] The Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH] has condemned the state

of seige, feeling that to have invoked public insecurity or political agitation to attack all political sectors everywhere means that General Avril, in reality, intends to maintain personal control of the government, directly or indirectly, by means of elections or without them.

PUCH believes nothing at all will win the military government the people's sympathies, and that the government is therefore using dictatorial force to impose its will on the nation. PUCH advocates the formation of a coalition government as a government for the democratic transition and as the only solution for getting the nation out of its crisis. Here is Rene Theodore.

[Begin Theodore recording] [passage omitted] Now, not only do we have before us a personal government—which, incidentally, we have always identified as such—that has come forward and shown how powerful an individual, a single citizen, is in comparison with all the other citizens, in comparison with the entire society... [changes thought] [passage omitted]

When you find yourself facing something like this after three years of political struggle for democracy, you feel disconcerted. Particularly in view of the fact that the political sectors that had already begun to get together in Haiti with a view toward transition to democracy, did not succeed—either in mobilizing the masses or in strengthening their capacity for concerted action so they could confront the situation in a unified manner.

Also, the government spoke of the insecurity and disrespect shown authority, using these as pretexts to explain the expulsions, certain arrests, and so forth. If they are going to talk about terrorism and insecurity, however, you must realize that the greatest acts of terror committed against the nation in the past three years have been on 29 November [the election day massacre] and 11 September [the St. Jean Bosco massacre]. The criminals and terrorists responsible for these acts were directly identified, but the government has never taken any action against them.

Thus, if we want an explanation for everything that has happened, it is not at all true that the individuals, citizens, and political leaders pursued, persecuted, and expelled are responsible for the terror and political agitation. For all practical purposes, what the government was trying to accomplish through such a cleanup was to clear the terrain so that the government's own plans—or, in this case, General Avril's, also probably those of certain political sectors that want to make sure there is continuity regarding their presence in the government and in the defense of their own personal interests through the government...[changes thought] so they can continue to ensure this at the expense of the entire nation.

Because this is, in fact, the continuation of a political legacy. The exercise of power that existed under the 29 years of the Duvaliers continues today. It is to defend those same interests—which the Haitian people rejected on 7 February 1986—that we have suffered so many vicissitudes for the past three years.

Actually, there is a big struggle going on. It is a struggle against an entire sector that, even if not very big, was very powerful, because it was in power and it had an established network within the administration and the society. Second, this sector is powerful because it has accumulated many means and much wealth at the expense of the nation. It is using all this wealth, all these means, all these networks—including institutional networks—to maintain its privileges through corruption and repression. [end recording]

Opposition Says Nation 'Has Lost Its Morale'

FL0202172590 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No. 33.737, 31 Jan 90, pp 1, 2

[Article by AFP special correspondent Edouard Pons: "Opinion of Certain Party Leaders"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In separate statements made to AFP, Marc Bazin, member of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti (MIDH, centrist) and Serge Gilles, head of the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti (Panpra, social democratic), have both categorically refused to participate in any kind of "electoral masquerade."

The MIDH and the Panpra, members of the coalition called the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress [ANDP], feel that sufficient guarantees must be obtained from General Avril, particularly regarding the total autonomy of the Electoral Council, which is in charge of organizing the elections. These parties feel that Gen. Avril will have to do a lot to restore confidence.

Both also acknowledge a sustained effort is required to mobilize, in favor of democracy, a population that remained totally indifferent to the establishment of a state of siege and that, according to them, "has lost its morale."

Gilles was harshly beaten in the courtyard of the National Palace when he was arrested 20 January and has still not come out of hiding. He states it is also necessary to "give those who are in favor of change within the Army more hope." [passage omitted]

Union President Released; Claims Tortured

FL0202190590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Haitian Commission for the Respect of Human Rights, the Rights of the Workers, and the Rights of the Masses announces that one of its members, Naly Beauharnais, president of the Union Federation of Public Transportation Vehicle Drivers, was released yesterday. Arrested and imprisoned on 12 January, Beauharnais was released at midday yesterday after 19 days' imprisonment. He claims he was tortured at the school of military instruction in Lamentin, at the Investigations and Antigang Service, and at the National Palace.

Jamaica

Marxist Workers Party Opens to Noncommunists

FL0102214790 Bridgetown CANA in English 2038 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 1, CANA—The Marxist Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ) has voted to repeal its 1978 Constitution thereby opening membership to non-communists. The party is rejecting the principle of democratic centralism and widening its philosophical outlook beyond Marxism-Leninism.

A news release from the party also stated that membership in the party is now open to communists, non-communists and "all persons committed to fundamental change for the benefit of the majority of the Jamaican people." These decisions were taken at the second sitting of the fourth congress of the party held recently.

The meeting heard presentations on the re-thinking process, resignations from the party, shortcomings among the leadership, errors in assessing the national and international situations and the need to further "Jamaicanise" the party.

Dr Trevor Munroe was re-elected general secretary and leader of the party at the meeting. Some top members have left the party in recent times, charging that Munroe was dominating things and that the WPJ was too rigidly Marxist.

St. Lucia

Communications Minister Announces Resignation

FL0202195890 Bridgetown CANA in English 1705 GMT 2 Feb 90

[By Ernie Seon]

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Feb 2, CANA—St Lucia's communications and works minister, Desmond Fostin, on Friday announced his resignation, complaining about personal attacks on his character. In a statement to be broadcast Friday night, Fostin admitted that several problems existed in his ministry, but that they resisted swift resolutions.

"Those problems reflected themselves in a steady deterioration in our road system, and public complaints rose," he said. "Certain elements of the local press soon converted those complaints into personal attacks upon my character and reputation and over the past three months, attacks have risen to a crescendo of vilification."

Fostin said that the climate created by those attacks made it impossible for him to continue to function as a minister. Fostin unsuccessfully contested the 1987 elections on behalf of the ruling United Workers Party but agreed to serve as a minister after he was appointed a senator. His ministry was recently criticised by Prime Minister John Compton, who promised to take action to "root out the inefficiency and corruption" there. Three of the island's largest trade unions wrote Government urging an investigation into the ministry.

Fostin said his ministry had been experiencing problems in ensuring that the island's 500-mile road network remained in proper shape. He said that the ministry needed EC 15 million dollars (one East Carib dollar = 37 U.S. cents) annually to maintain the roads here, but had been receiving only EC 8 million dollars annually for the past three years.

Fostin, an engineer, said he had abandoned a lucrative private practice to render a public service, which he considered he owed to his country, having been granted a government scholarship to study civil engineering . "I did not enter into public life in search of a job. There is no shortage of opportunity for engineers in the private sector in St.Lucia," he said. "Therefore after due consideration and after consultation with my family and my government colleagues, I have decided to tender my resignation from the Ministry of Works to afford the prime minister a free hand so that the reforms necessary in that ministry might be effected," Fostin said.

Fostin said he had instructed his lawyers to start legal proceedings to clear his name of the unjustified charges that "an irresponsible and destructive press" had levelled against him. He did not name which section of the press had made the charges.

Compton Accepts

FL0302022290 Bridgetown CANA in English 2358 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Report by Ernie Seon]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Feb 2, CANA—St Lucia Prime Minister John Compton on Friday accepted the resignation of his communications and works minister, but defended him against "vicious character attacks."

The minister, Desmond Fostin, on Friday announced he was resigning with immediate effect because of personal attacks.

Fostin had been under heavy fire because of charges of corruption in the ministry.

Compton said when the accusations against Fostin arose, he was subjected to several hours of cross-examination, and absolutely nothing was found to justify the attacks on his character. "Because of this, I stand by Desmond Fostin in support of his integrity," the prime minister said. "But these attacks have caused deep wounds to the young minister, and have severely damaged his ability to function, and he has offered his resignation with immediate effect, and this resignation I most regretably accept," Compton added.

He said a probe of allegations of wrong-doing in the ministry would continue.

In a radio and television statement which followed Fostin's broadcast of his decision to resign, Compton

disclosed that he had evidence of corrupt practices by public servants in the Ministry of Works. "There is evidence that certain persons have suddenly become rich, building a number of houses without loans from the banks, purchasing heavy equipment costing hundreds of thousands of dollars, amassing huge bank accounts, but only the poor minister must have his reputation destroyed while others go free to carry on their malpractices," Compton said.

The allegations of malpractices at the Ministry of Works were first disclosed by Compton who last December promised to "root out" those responsible for the wastage and squandering of government funds. Compton's concern was shared by leader of the opposition Julian Hunte and three of the island's largest unions, which called for the removal of the minister.

"This is not a case where one man must die for the people. All those suspected of malpractice will be investigated and dealt with accordingly," Compton warned. He added: "Where criminal activity is found, the police will intervene and where there has been negligence, administrative action will be taken."

Noting Fostin's claim that he had resigned to give him a free hand to clean up the ministry, Compton said that this process had already begun, "not only in the Ministry of Works but in all ministries and departments where people have fallen short of the expected norms of the public service."

Compton said that during the next few weeks he will be carrying out consultations with his ministers, "to ensure that the public of St Lucia continue to receive the quantity of service to which they have grown accustomed."

Trinidad and Tobago

Country Called Upon To Help With Haiti

FL0202150290 Bridgetown CANA in English 2008 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 1, CANA—General Secretary of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC), Rev. Allan Kirton, wants Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson to help Haiti avoid a bloodbath. The TRINIDAD EXPRESS cited Kirton on Thursday as saying that he hoped Robinson would initiate Caribbean government action on what could almost inevitably be another bloodbath in Haiti.

"I wish he would begin to say something because he is a respected voice," Kirton told the paper from his Barbados home.

The comments from the outspoken church leader came after Haiti lifted a state of siege during which the government rounded up and beat dozens of opposition activists and deported six leading figures and also imposed strict press censorship. The crackdown drew strong condemnation from several countries, including the United States, France and Canada, Haiti's traditional foreign aid donors. France, its biggest contributor, cut off all aid to the Western hemisphere's poorest nation.

Kirton said the people of Haiti had become bolder on seeing the force of their action over the last two years and would "give their lives" for freedom in their country. In this light, he remarked that the Haitian people had caught on quickly to the ways of military leader, Prosper Avril, and would oppose him with "whatever they had." "He (Avril) was adopted by the Duvaliers. He spent much of his life at the Duvalier palace and he was at one time a chief negotiator for Francois (Papa Doc) Duvalier," Kirton said.

Kirton described Haiti as representing the past and present of the Caribbean. "If we are not careful, there are some developments taking place at the moment which could lead to the Haitianisation of many societies in the Caribbean," he said.

The churchman saw it as incumbent on Caribbean societies to fight for the development of democracy in Haiti since Avril was attempting to marginalise the political opposition and create a situation in which he could virtually handpick candidates for local and municipal elections.

According to Kirton's assessment of recent events in Haiti, Avril was reacting to a situation in which he was facing competition in buying support from the Armed Forces. The CCC general secretary said that Avril was trying to both "curry favour" with sections of the Army and to detract from the failure of a money-raising venture which failed to earn Taiwanese funds to develop Haiti.

Kirton said that the January 21 deportations from Haiti had included a political leader who had cabled the Taiwanese Government stating that Avril was not representing the interest of the Haitian people in any negotiations. Kirton also said that an Army colonel, his wife and child who had been killed in an attack outside their home in Haiti had been known not to be on good terms with Avril.

Government Signs Public Debt Reduction Agreement

PA0402175090 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1736 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Feb (DPA)—The Mexican Government today signed an agreement with its creditors to reduce the public foreign debt. The action will allow the amortization of $22 billion with a 35-percent discount and an additional $22.5 billion with a fixed 6.25-percent interest rate.

Salinas Speaks on Accord

PA0402220090 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1735 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Speech by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari at National Palace in Mexico City during signing ceremony of agreement to repay the foreign debt—live]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: I thank all of you for being present here at the National Palace during this ceremony, which is important to each and every Mexican and significant to the international community. Today the intensive and difficult process of renegotiating Mexico's foreign debt has ended. This has been made possible by the Mexican people's honesty and maturity, as well as the willingness on the part of governments, international financial organizations, and creditor banks.

The negotiation was exceptional because it was novel and complex. The agreement we have just signed is satisfactory to all. The process we have carried out has opened new paths. Throughout this process, we all learned to accommodate our views to conciliate interests and to look to the future. At all times, Mexico placed firm negotiations above unilateral confrontation, because it was supported by convincing moral reasons and technical arguments. The agreements with the IMF, followed by those with the World Bank and the Paris Club, mark the initiation of a new treatment based on the recognition of the serious and constant work carried out by Mexico.

Traditional approaches were not possible because they would have prevented the sustained efforts and deep changes in a nation like Mexico from resulting in a resumption of growth and an increase in well-being. A new concept of coresponsibility had to be put to work. For the first time, Mexico's ideas were recognized at a political level. The debt problem could not be solved by allowing our nation to become more indebted. Rather, it necessitated making reductions in the principal and the servicing. Just a few days before my meeting in Paris in July 1989 with the heads of state and government of the most industrialized nations in the world, we arrived at a basic agreement with the Advisory Committee of the commercial banks that embodied a proposal to reduce the debt and included all sectors. That is why it is exceptional.

Today we are reaping the fruit of the Mexican people's steadfastness and solidarity. I extend my recognition to them. Other factors contributing to the agreement were the understanding and constructive attitude of the international community. I now express my particular appreciation for the farsightedness and courage of Mr. Brady, the U.S. treasury secretary. He was able to introduce new ideas, articulate previous proposals, and propose concepts to effectively pave the way for viable solutions.

The governments of the most industrialized nations contributed their will and the personal support of their highest representatives. Without the Brady plan, the many interests at play would not have found a common avenue to make it possible to find a solution to the problem that would not only be fair to Mexico, but rational for the world system. What was at first a novel initiative is now a concrete achievement.

In addition, a new, responsible, and flexible attitude on the part of the international financial organizations was a decisive factor in concluding this agreement. The commercial banks, particularly the members of the Advisory Committee, displayed an open-minded and constructive attitude. They were aware of our realities, their responsibilities to the international financial system, and their long-term interests. I express my appreciation to all of them. In particular, I would like to mention Wilfried Guth, director of the Deutsche Bank, who died recently. He spearheaded the creation of a new remedy to the debt problem, which greatly contributed to progress in the negotiations.

As a result of this agreement, Mexico's vistas are now much broader. We set out to correct the inequalities which had accumulated in the past. Mexico made a decision to become a strong and just nation and to be present in the 21st century. We are modernizing our economic structures to create the conditions for sustained growth without inflation. For Mexico, resuming growth is not only an economic objective; it is, above all, a social imperative in meeting the needs of over 85 million Mexicans and the 10 million who will join us during the six years of my administration.

We have made a considerable fiscal reorganization effort to stabilize our economy and to resume growth. We have opened ourselves to international competition and have stimulated exports as well as efficiency in our industrial plant. We have deregulated and promoted domestic and foreign investments. We are changing the state's profile so it will fulfill its social responsibilities and promote further justice. Along this path, our debt weighed on the general climate in the country, on each person's efforts, and on the depth of the reforms themselves. We have now left that hindrance behind.

The renegotiation of the debt is enough for Mexico. With the substantial reduction in remittances abroad, the permanency of our policies and the seriousness of our effort can now translate into more growth and well-being. With the signing of this agreement, the public sector's foreign debt to the commercial banks has been reduced, in economic terms, by $20.5 billion from the balance in December 1988 when I began my administration. Furthermore, the debt is less

because it represents 40 percent of the GNP, whereas it was 60 percent in December 1987 and 57 percent in December 1988. This result has brought certainty and has consolidated confidence. This has already had a positive effect on domestic and foreign investment and on the repatriation of capital.

Mr. Secretary Brady, Mr. Camdessus, Messrs. directors and authorities of international financial organizations, Messrs. directors and representatives of creditor banks: We have arrived at the signing of this agreement conscious of the fact that we have taken a new and firm step. It contains the seed of a more open and fruitful relationship between Mexico and the institutions you represent. We now have confidence and enthusiasm to look at the future.

We would like to have closer ties with the international financial system in support of trade and direct investment and the promotion of financing for new projects. We have discipline and perseverance and a project that is in line with the size of the challenge facing Mexico with our history and cultural wealth.

We want to actively participate in the great ongoing world transformation, and with that in mind, we want international organizations and commercial banks to continue playing a role in Mexico's development.

Today we conclude the chapter involving our old debt owed to international commercial banks. Let us now look forward to the financing of new opportunities for Mexican development.

Compatriots, the signing of this historic accord takes place after my return from an intense working tour in Europe. With great satisfaction, I confirmed that Mexico now enjoys greater respect from the international community, mainly because of the consistency of its policies, the seriousness of its programs, and above all, the resoluteness of its people.

I was encouraged by the concrete results of my meetings with heads of state and government, businessmen and social groups, intellectuals and the media. The debt reduction accord is taking place within the framework of Mexico's new international relations that include stable associations and mutually beneficial, equitable, and clear rules.

Competition, which is more intense than ever today, constitutes a challenge to our imagination and creativity and should not be a source of instability or isolation. Emerging economic blocs such as the united Europe of 1992, enthusiasm for changes in East Europe, and the integration of the North American common market and Caribbean Basin must give way to a greater opening and dynamism toward the international trade of goods and capital, and be viewed as an opportunity to make the international presence of Mexico and Latin America more dynamic.

I received specific feedback during, which leads me to believe that we can expect better things for the future. Compatriots, I returned with more enthusiasm, pride over what is thought about us, and optimism for the new opportunities ahead of us.

I repeat, the accord that we signed today does not solve all our problems. There is no renegotiation of the foreign debt that could replace firm and serious internal economic policy. This is why we will now redouble fiscal discipline and make further structural changes. We have work and more work ahead of us.

Our efforts today and tomorrow will produce clear benefits for all Mexicans. Besides our history, these efforts will give added pride to our children. This is a new opportunity for all of us to achieve better living conditions. This step will place Mexico in the vanguard of the world's transformations in the next century.

We Mexicans are confident in our future because of our pride in our past and the persevering efforts that we are making in this promising present. Viva Mexico, compatriots! [applause]

Report Says Dangerous Criminals Former Policemen

PA0302010590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1235 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Mexico City, 31 Jan (EFE)—A report issued by the National Criminology Institute [Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Penales] notes that Mexican police live "in medieval times" and because of this, most of the country's dangerous criminals are former policemen.

Many Mexico City legislators agree with this study, as was expressed by Security Commission President Ramon Sosamontes, who believes that "all the country's security corps operations are flooded with corruption, irregularities, and anarchy."

Far from ensuring order and security for citizens, the Mexican police steer away from these objectives, as it has been proven that former policemen are involved in "most serious crimes," such as drug trafficking, kidnapping, rape, bank robbery, theft involving violence, and murder.

The National Criminology Institute is under the National Attorney General's Office, and its investigation was carried out at 20 different police organizations. The results indicate that police corps in Latin America, including Mexico, "have not professionalized their units or democratized their structures."

Many of the Mexican security corps are the result of 18 years of plans, projects, and programs of three different governments that tried to restructure police functions, but the attempts of which ended in chaos.

Some of the organizations that resulted from the restructuring are even illegal, as the Mexican Constitution prohibits the formation of organizations for private use. Such is the case with the industrial and banking police and the auxiliary police that were formed for this purpose.

Furthermore, it has also been proven that Mexican police organizations rampantly violate human rights and many times make arbitrary arrests and torture alleged criminals to force them to confess to crimes.

From the legislative point of view, Sosamontes accepted that it would be difficult to reform police organizations, because this action would be "confronted with vested interests and practices that have been made law by policemen in their daily tasks."

In Mexico's recent past, there have been cases like that of Arturo "El Negro" Durazo, general director of the Mexico City Police Corps, who is in prison for numerous crimes and acts of corruption. Also, Jose Antonio Zorrila, head of the Federal Security Directorate [Direccion Federal de Seguridad] (political police) who is accused of murder and drug trafficking. These are not unusual cases. There are many police chiefs who are presently in jail.

Some time ago, several federal judicial policemen assigned to the antinarcotics unit and a few who were personal bodyguards of Javier Coello Trejo, attorney general for the investigation and struggle against drug trafficking, were arrested after evidence was presented that they had raped at least 12 persons in a year's time.

A number of victims had identified Coello Trejo's bodyguards, but they were not arrested until Mexico City's Attorney General Ignacio Morales Lechuga took direct action.

Despite the existence of evidence that these agents—trained by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)—were raping women in their spare time, Attorney General Coello Trejo publicly insisted that he would continue to trust them.

*ZETA Publisher on Murdered Colleague's Case

90EM0078A Tijuana ZETA in Spanish
29 Dec 89-5 Jan 90 pp 22A-23A

[From the "Double Truck" column by J. Jesus Blancornelas]

[Text] Two facts are beyond doubt: one is the power of the Hank Rhon family and the other is the political rise of Ernesto Ruffo Appel.

However, there are doubts about which of the two sides will be the first to yield in the case of ZETA's murdered codirector Hector Felix Miranda.

The quick answer would be that the intelligence, craftiness, and money of Professor Carlos Hank Gonzalez are likely to be more than enough reason to neutralize Ernesto Ruffo's resolve to shed light on the crime. However, it would make perfect sense for the practical side of the Baja California governor's nature to win out. This could logically result in two pivotal events: either Jorge Hank is investigated, questioned, and, if warranted, prosecuted, or he leaves the country rather than answer a summons from the Attorney General's Office.

Some Baja Californians might taste the bitter flavor of disappointment upon seeing and learning that Ernesto Ruffo Appel is taking no action in the case of Hector Felix Miranda. However, it might be said that the matter has worked its way into a crack where it could very badly shatter the influence wielded by Hank Rhon or become the political grave of the youthful new governor.

Suppose Ernesto Ruffo behaves as expected and decides that his attorney general should politely request or order the arrest of Jorge Hank Rhon. Suppose Hank were obliged to answer evidence indicating he ordered the killing? Then, would the secretary of tourism, friend of the president, and suspect's father speak to the governor? Would he ask that the arrest not be made or, better yet, that the affair be forgotten? Would Ruffo spurn the suggestion and provoke the wrath of Mr Hank? Or would Ruffo grant this favor in return for another from the secretary of tourism?

Carlos Hank Gonzalez is a powerful man, so much so that 10 years ago, an attempt was made to change the Constitution. As the son of a foreigner, Hank was not eligible to become president of the Republic, something for which many Mexicans were clamoring. Thus, he had only to suggest or order that Xicontencatl Leyva Mortera and Oscar Baylon Chacon leave the case of Hector Felix Miranda alone, and the two exgovernors obeyed him. Furthermore, they flaunted the influence and power of the Hank Rhon family before us in Baja California. Jorge's public exhibitionism reflected a complacency that bordered on ridicule and insult. It was all the same to him whether he bought restaurants, built shopping centers, sponsored students, or surrounded himself with the cream of society.

So, will Ruffo resist the power of a gentleman such as Carlos Hank Gonzalez, or will he be unrestrained in letting the Attorney General's Office summon, investigate, and question young Carlos and his inseparable little friend Alberto Murgia?

Those who hope the new governor will extend the arm of justice and enforce the law regard his decision authorizing the strike at Agua Caliente Race Track as a sign that Ernesto Ruffo Appel has not given in to pressure from Hank Rhon. Whatever the legal outcome of the labor-management conflict, the simple fact that the race track has stayed closed for a month is enough to confirm that Hank Rhon's influence is on the wane. It has eroded enough to inflict pain on the family bank accounts.

Another noteworthy symptom is that the Interior Secretariat could have applied subtle political pressure to end the strike in favor of Prof. Carlos Hank Gonzalez and his son, but this didn't happen. It handed the problem to the courts instead. Such a thrust may been seen as highly typical of the Salinas administration's wish to appear impartial in its dealings with Baja California's National Action Party [PAN] government.

There's also another highly significant and pivotal question. Will the president of the republic allow the only

opposition governor to be so bold as to investigate and, if warranted, try the son of one of his most important collaborators, the secretary of tourism, Mr. Carlos Hank Gonzalez?

Whether Ruffo would succumb to pressure from Hank or reach an agreement might be open to doubt. However, there's not the slightest doubt about the unwillingness of Salinas de Gortari to let a coverup of this crime blemish his administration. Under these circumstances, young Ernesto Ruffo and his energetic attorney general will need more than good intentions to clear up the Hector Felix case and stop relegating it to mere press statements.

During its two months in office, the Ruffo administration has stood by the following statements:

Krauss: "The case of Hector Felix Miranda is not closed."

Ladron de Guevara: "We will capture Antonio Vera Palestina."

Some Baja Californians might allow this pair of gentlemen a little leeway. It might be said in their defense that they're busy repairing inherited damage, that right now they need time. However, Attorney General Krauss and the judicial police director, Ladron de Guevara, are different from new officeholders in the past. The case of Hector Felix Miranda is exactly where the difference lies.

In his prior post as a Supreme Court magistrate, Krauss was in charge of studying the motion filed by defense attorneys seeking to overturn the sentence of Victoriano Medina Moreno. The request for review came after Medina was condemned to 27 years in jail for his part in the slaying of Hector Felix. There is nothing about this case, no depth of legal nuance, with which Krauss is unfamiliar.

Mr. Ladron de Guevara enjoys a major advantage. He took a personal part in investigating the crime when Gustavo Romero Meza was director of the State Judicial Police. What's more, Mr. Ladron de Guevara attended each and every hearing in which Victoriano Medina Moreno was questioned by the court or confronted by those who accused him of having murdered Hector Felix. Thus, there is nothing Mr. Ladron de Guevara doesn't know about the case.

This gentleman recently stated that he's on the verge of capturing Antonio Vera Palestina. The announcement in itself amounts to a tacit recognition by the Ruffo administration. It confirms the suspicion that this is the person who physically murdered Hector Felix Miranda, and the mention of Vera Palestina involves Jorge Hank Rhon.

Vera Palestina was personally commissioned by Prof. Carlos Hank Gonzalez to look after his son Jorge, and was serving in this role when the crime occurred. He received money from the race track after assassinating Felix so he could disappear, and used vehicles from the track to commit the crime. Vera Palestina also had himself accompanied by racetrack employees so he could commit the crime. In addition , until it is proven otherwise, we believe that Vera Palestina hid out in houses belonging to Jorge in Bonita and to the ranch belonging to the professor in the State of Mexico.

So strong is this evidence that an old saying bears repeating: If an animal has the tail of a duck, if it has the feet of a duck, if it has the bill of a duck, and quacks like a duck...then it's a duck. So why not summon Jorge Hank Rhon and have him make a statement clarifying his position on the crime? Not only could he explain what happened from the time Vera Palestina received instructions to help him, but he could also clearly establish the nature of his relationship with Hector Felix and the friendship that he had. He could also clear up the question of where he forged his friendship with Alberto Murguia, his inseparable friend, and be similarly clear about how his camaraderie with Hector Felix broke down. He could likewise explain in detail why he gave Vera Palestina money to flee and could give exact details about when he learned from Vera Palestina that Hector Felix had been killed, just as they presumably planned.

Alberto Murguia should also be summoned to testify. There are those in the State Judicial Police who consider him even more culpable than Jorge Hank Rhon himself. This young fellow could also give details about the friendships involved and reveal just when he could have learned of the plan to get rid of Hector Felix. He could also say when he found out the crime had been committed and by whom. He could say exactly how far his relations and dealings went with Antonio Vera Palestina and Victoriano Medina.

Why not get a statement from Gustavo Romero Meza, the State Judicial Police director who headed the initial investigation? Romero knows more than he said in his official statements while leading the investigations. He could go so far as to explain clearly how, why, where, and at what time Antonio Vera Palestina fled the confines of the race track even though the place had been put on special alert. Romero Meza would likewise be in a position to explain in detail the results of his inquiry into the records and associations of the parties to this disgraceful episode.

In the rush to clear up the case, it would be prudent to do what Baylon refused to do: summon Xicontencatl Leyva Mortera for a statement. Why did he declare upon learning of the crime that it was "an afterglow of the drug trade?" If that's his stated view, it's because there were reasons for him to reach such a conclusion. And if he discloses these reasons to the authorities, he might solve the whole case. And why not get a statement from Jose Osorio, chief of Xicontencatl Leyva Mortera's guard detail and the one who practically led the investigation? Osorio served as the link between Romero Meza and Xicontencatl Leyva Mortera. According to semi-official sources, it was Osorio who decided how broad the Judicial Police investigation could be and how far it could proceed.

Other gentlemen who know much more about this matter include:

1. Jaime Sam Fierro, current chief of the State Judicial Police in Ensenada. He was transferred from Mexicali to Tijuana to investigate the crime. It's an open secret that Sam Fierro knows more than public opinion does.

2. Sergio Barrios, now a state judicial policeman in Tijuana. He had a key role in the investigation together with Sam Fierro and Romero Meza.

3. Ramon del Cid, former chief of State Judicial Police in Ensenada. He held the post at the time of the crime and received a transfer so he could take part in the investigation with Romero Meza, Sam Fierro, and Barrios.

4. Miguel Angel Torres, public affairs director for then governor Xicontencatl Leyva Mortera. He's another one who was much too close for comfort to the way the case of Hector Felix Miranda was investigated and managed.

In sum, there could be more names, but if these personalities were summoned for statements, it would be a sign that the investigation is getting serious and that it's moving well beyond mere press statements and good intentions.

Costa Rica

Calderon Claims Victory; Castillo Accepts Defeat

PA0502050190 Paris AFP in Spanish 0358 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] San Jose, 4 Feb (AFP)—Opposition leader Rafael Angel Calderon proclaimed himself president-elect of Costa Rica tonight, and the official computations from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] show he is the winner of the 4 February elections with more than 50 percent of the vote.

"Victory belongs to all of us, it belongs to all of us who have the spirit of struggle and have faith in Costa Rica," said a trimphant Calderon in a San Jose hotel where he celebrated his electoral victory with thousands of followers.

The preliminary computation of the TSE so far gives 122,692 votes to Calderon, from the opposition Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC), and 116,523 votes to his opponent Carlos Manuel Castillo, of the ruling National Liberation Party (the social democratic PLN).

In an impromptu speech, Calderon said he felt "happy and proud of being president-elect, not because of what the title represents, but because of the people I represent with that title."

An emotional Calderon said: "God has blessed Costa Rica. Let us ask God to give us the strength, wisdom, and humility to serve the people, that we will always know how to recognize the good that our people deserve."

[San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 0417 GMT on 5 February carries a 5-minute live statement by Carlos Manuel Castillo from the PLN headquarters in San Jose saying that he accepts the decision of the majority of the Costa Rican people, because they "have freely elected the president of Costa Rica. I am here to tell you and all the Costa Rican people that Rafael Angel Calderon is the president of all Costa Ricans. That is the decision of the Costa Ricans; that is the truth that was expressed at the polls."]

Press Coverage of Campaign Prior to Election

Opposition Favored To Win

PA0302162490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1313 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Report by Juan Ramon Rojas]

[Text] San Jose, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—On the eve of tomorrow's elections in Costa Rica, the ruling party is not favored in the forecasts, despite the economic and political stability enjoyed in Costa Rica, a country that has experienced the largest economic growth in Latin America during this decade, according to a recent study.

Although the predictions are negative for Carlos Manuel Castillo of the social democratic National Liberation Party (PLN), everyone agrees that if Rafael Angel Calderon of the Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC) wins the elections, it would be by a close margin.

Both parties today pointed to various polls that favor them as winners, although the PLN did not disclose the results, it merely stated that the polls gave them a six-percent advantage.

PUSC spokesmen, meanwhile, gave assurances that two polls that have been conducted locally in the past few days gave the party an advantage of almost 10 percent (54 to 43 percent).

Meanwhile, a study conducted by the Institute for International Economy, which was published this week in Washington, revealed that Costa Rica and Chile initiated early, broad, reform processes, and both have undergone four years of "solid economic growth."

In addition to these figures, however, President Oscar Arias, the key figure in the Central American peace agreements, enjoys considerable national and international prestige as few heads of state in this country have. With only four months left in his term, the country is enjoying good economic and social health.

According to official figures, unemployment has all but disappeared in Costa Rica at four percent, and the housing shortage has been reduced by approximately 80,000 units in the past four years, in addition to the traditionally low index of illiteracy, and the high life expectancy.

Some political commentators feel one of the current administration's weak points, which could cause the PLN to suffer an upset, is its agrarian policy, an area in which considerable tensions have emerged between the authorities and peasants during this term.

The peasantry, accustomed to producing the traditional basic grains, has not yet accepted the "agriculture of change" promoted by this government, which consist of raising crops for export, while sacrificing production of crops for domestic consumption.

Also, the electorate does not view Castillo, who is 61 years old and holds a doctorate in economics, as a successor to Arias Sanchez in the leadership sense, but rather as a university professor or a technocrat.

The discourse of his social Christian contender, Rafael Calderon Fournier, who is making his third bid for the Presidency and is only 40 years old, is of a populist nature and has support from the peasants affected by the "agriculture of change," and among poor sectors in urban areas, comprising 10 percent of the population, who have not benefitted from the past few administrations.

Against most of the forecasts, some observers feel that neither of the two candidates' positions are clearly defined, and that their fates will be on the line tomorrow when 1.6 million Costa Ricans cast their votes.

This position is based upon the considerable organizational and mobilization capabilities the PLN has always displayed, its considerable influence over the population and, above all, on the fact that there is no great reason to desire a change of parties.

The PLN, founded in 1951 by the octogenarian leader Jose Figueres, has won six of the nine elections in which it has participated since 1953.

Nevertheless, the two candidates' political proposals are very similar in almost every field, especially in the areas of economy and international policy, and they both agree that the Central American peace process initiated by Arias should continue.

Calderon has pledged to continue developing all of the programs initiated by Arias' government "that are for the country's good," although he disagrees with the current administration's handling of public spending, which he feels "has been taken advantage of." Castillo has promised that his social policy "will seek a balanced distribution of the fruits of economic development" and he proposes "strengthening farming activities," for the obvious purpose of gaining the votes of the two sectors that have shown the most reticence toward the PLN: the peasants and the poor.

Opposition Candidate Outlines Agenda

PA0302164490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1330 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Report by Luis Miguel Blanco]

[Text] San Jose, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Rafael Calderon Fournier, Costa Rican presidential candidate for the Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC), the opposition, said today that if he wins the 4 February elections he will ask the United States, Europe, and Japan for assistance in tackling Central America's economic problems.

Calderon said he feels a "deep concern" because some European countries are thinking of cutting or "substantially" reducing their credits to Central America and offering them to East Europe, which has been done by the Italian Government, which said it will suspend its aid to Central America, with Costa Rica being the only exception.

The politician urged West Europe "not to forget Central America when turning to give its assistance to East Europe," and added that he expects to talk with U.S. President George Bush about this situation before May.

He said that "the EC is an example of the free world," and for this reason "a greater effort must be made to keep the EC focused on Central America."

Calderon, who is the favored to win the elections tomorrow, according to recent polls, announced he will give "absolute support" to the celebration of the fifth centennial of the discovery of America in 1992 because "we are united with Spain by those 500 years of history and we have to celebrate it with them in a big way."

He said if he wins he will promote "a regional effort" to obtain credits and investments from Japan to compensate "for what we may fail to receive from somewhere else." "It is time for Central America to look toward Japan," he said.

Calderon, 40, feels that even though it has one of the best economic growth rates on the continent, Costa Rica "needs foreign aid to preserve its democracy."

He said that "Costa Rica cannot break with the international financial organizations, but should seek political support from the developed world in getting better treatment in our negotiations with the IMF and the World Bank."

Regarding his foreign policy, Calderon emphasized that there will be "few changes" and noted that he intends to deepen the "excellent" relations his country has with all Europe.

Regarding Costa Rica's Central American neighbors, Calderon said that he especially emphasizes compliance with the "Esquipulas II" peace agreements signed by the Central American presidents in 1987.

Calderon told ACAN-EFE that Costa Rica will maintain its position as a peacekeeper in the area and that, if elected, he "may possibly" send an observer to the meeting of Central American presidents scheduled in Nicaragua during the first quarter of 1990.

"We are going to push for compliance with the principles of the peace plan," and for an end to the irregular forces which are active in the region, he said.

He pointed out that at present "there are hopes" of achieving political solutions to the conflicts in El Salvador and Nicaragua. For this reason, he rejected and condemned the military actions of the insurgent movements and the death squads.

In his opinion, the reforms in East Europe have had a "positive" influence on the Nicaraguan rulers who, according to him, won "fraudulent elections" five years ago.

"The eyes of the world must be focused on Nicaragua to ensure respect for the people's will during the 25 February elections," Calderon said.

He defended the "legitimacy" of the new Panamanian Government and "deplored" Latin America's failure to achieve a political solution for the crisis in that country.

Calderon said he feels "there are many possibilities for change" in Cuba at the present time, but thinks that Castro is still intervening in the conflict in El Salvador and that "it is necessary to exert international pressure for him to stop."

The PUSC's candidate, son of late Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia (1940-1944), defined himself ideologically as a "center-leftist" politician.

Regarding the nation's economy, he said the biggest problem is the internal debt, which he estimated at $1.2 billion, because it is "preventing a reduction in interest rates, and this affects production."

According to Calderon, the priority task of a social Christian government is to restore "social equilibrium," because the gap between the rich and the poor has "grown" during the past few years.

He also intends "to curb the fiscal deficit," which currently amounts to approximately $200 million. He ruled out mass dismissals of public employees, but said he will tackle the agrarian problem and the problems of 120,000 Costa Rican coffee growers, who have been seriously affected by the slump of coffee prices on the international market.

He said he will work for a new international coffee agreement, but with higher prices for the coffee produced by his country, which is "one of the best in the world."

He said he plans to continue with the policy of privatizing state-owned enterprises and to ask for "more assistance" from the United States to improve the "deficient" tax collection system.

The presidential candidate wants to intensify the fight against the "serious problem" of drug trafficking and money laundering and will ask the United States "to intensify" its assistance to train Costa Rican personnel to fight this evil.

Parties To Support Peace Process

PA0302194490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1550 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] San Jose, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The two leading Costa Rican political parties today pledged to continue supporting the peace process in Central America while making last-minute arrangements on the eve of the 4 February elections, during which close to 1.7 million voters will elect a successor to President Oscar Arias.

The candidates with a possibility of victory are Carlos Manuel Castillo of the ruling social democratic National Liberation Party (PLN) and Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier of the Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC).

Castillo, who is 61 years old and has a doctorate in economics, has said if he wins the elections, which he expects to do, he will seek cooperation "to discard the military option in Central America."

"We are going to take the initiative in the political and diplomatic spheres to find a solution to the conflicts at those levels," and "to promote democracy in Nicaragua and peace in El Salvador," the social democratic candidate said.

Castillo said if he becomes president he will try to add, to the peace plan promoted by President Arias, "economic and social dimensions through the mobilization of a substantial amount of economic assistance," which he expects to obtain from the United States, Japan, and Canada.

Meanwhile, Calderon, a 41-year-old lawyer who is vying for the Costa Rican Presidency for a third consecutive time, said if he wins on 4 February he will ask the United States, Europe, and Japan for economic assistance to tackle the crisis in Central America and will place special emphasis on compliance with the Central American peace agreements.

"We are going to push for compliance with the principles of the peace plan" signed by the five Central American presidents in 1987, the social Christian aspirant promised, noting that "there are hopes" of achieving negotiated solutions to the conflicts in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

This is one more point on which the platforms of the two parties coincide. Above all, they agree on foreign and economic policy matters, the only difference, if any, is the somewhat more populist discourse of the opposition candidate. Sunday's elections are regarded as one of the closest races in Costa Rica in recent times.

Although most polls show the PUSC leading with a slight edge, political commentators agree there is no clear favorite to win, and if Calderon wins, he will do so by a very slim margin.

On 2 February both parties claimed that poll results show each one winning. The PLN, however, did not give any results but simply noted that it had been given a 6-percent lead.

In turn, PUSC spokesmen said that two polls taken nationwide during the last few days give it a lead of approximately 10 percent (54 to 43 percent).

To win the presidency, a candidate must garner at least 40 percent of the votes. All polls show that both Calderon and Castillo will get more than that in view of the fact that the minority parties are in crisis.

In addition to the PLN and PUSC, five other parties—two of which are leftist—have fielded presidential candidates. They do not have even a slight chance to make a dent on the two leading political parties, but are running to get a few deputies elected.

All political propaganda, as well as the sale of liquor, have been prohibited since midnight on 2 February to allow Costa Ricans over 18 years of age to consider the candidate for whom they will vote.

Calderon Wants Closer U.S. Ties

PA0302203890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1738 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] San Jose, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican opposition presidential candidate Rafael Angel Calderon, a social Christian, said today if he wins tomorrow's elections Costa Rica will have "a closer relationship with the United States" than did his predecessor Oscar Arias.

The Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC) candidate said that his government's foreign policy would be the same as the current president's, except he would have closer ties with Washington.

"It will be a more brotherly relationship because of my friendship with President George Bush and because of the relationship between the two parties (PUSC and Republican)," Calderon said at a news conference with foreign correspondents.

Nevertheless, he regretted that the United State's proposed economic aid for Costa Rica next year will be cut by $35 million in comparison to the aid that will be received in 1990, and he said that "most serious of all is that the amount may be reduced even more."

Calderon pointed out that this issue will be among the focal points of future negotiations with the United States because cuts in aid are unjustifiable.

The presidential candidate said if he wins the elections the country's foreign policy, specifically toward Central America, will not undergo vast changes—"perhaps the only change will be in the time the president devotes to foreign policy."

"President Arias has been president and foreign minister simultaneously" he said, adding that he will devote more time to domestic issues, and will give the foreign minister a wider range of functions.

Calderon said he will continue the efforts initiated by Arias Sanchez to achieve peace and democracy in Central America, he will seek greater Latin American unity in the hope of attaining a new international economic order, and he dismissed the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba.

"We will not maintain relations with Cuba as long as (Fidel Castro's government) it continues meddling in our countries' internal affairs," he said.

Calderon, 41, and who, according to most observers, seems to be the favorite to win tomorrow's elections, justified U.S. military aid to El Salvador as long as the guerrilla movement in that country persists.

Nevertheless, regarding Nicaragua, he said that any military aid to the "contras" is unjustifiable, adding that he hopes Nicaragua's elections will be carried out in a normal manner "and that we can maintain a relationship of respect and peace between our countries despite the difference in the nature of our governments."

Calderon declined to comment on the development of the Nicaraguan electoral process, which will culminate with elections on 25 February, but he said if the Sandinists win, "a strong opposition movement will emerge, and the situation in that country will be defined in the political and not military field."

Castillo Summarizes Platform

PA0302223490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1838 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] San Jose, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Carlos Manuel Castillo, candidate for the ruling National Liberation Party (PLN), announced today that if he wins Sunday's election in Costa Rica he will fight "the rightist and leftist dictatorships" and will struggle "for human rights and support democracy."

Castillo, 61, believes he has a 6-point advantage over his rival, social Christian Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, 41, in the presidential race.

Summarizing his government platform, Castillo said "the essence" of his foreign policy will be "to struggle for human rights and support democracy." He vowed to speak out "loudly" against the "rightist and leftist dictatorships."

Like Calderon, he hopes Costa Rica "will continue to be the regional leader for solving the Central American conflict."

The social democratic hopeful believes the socioeconomic aspect must be considered in the democratization process of Central America.

He said he plans to update the foreign policy of current President and fellow party member Oscar Arias "in light of the new reality this policy has helped to create," adding that he will especially emphasize those aspects tending "to strengthen democratic institutionality in Nicaragua."

He said he will request aid from the United States and the Soviet Union to "reestablish and consolidate peace in the isthmus."

He also committed himself to "struggling relentlessly" against drug trafficking and corruption and to promoting the deportation "of undesirables and foreign drug traffickers," as well as to improving the efficiency of the police and adopting rehabilitation programs for drug "victims."

Castillo promised to strive toward an overall improvement in the education system, to lead an honest government, and "to accentuate the process of democratization of the national economy" to arrive at "a country of proprietors."

The PLN has ruled Costa Rica for the past 8 years, from 1982 to 1986 under Luis Alberto Monge, and from 1986 until 8 May 1990 under Oscar Arias, winner of the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize for his struggle to end the warring conflicts in Central America.

Social democrat Castillo will struggle to "maintain foreign exchange stability through a healthy financial policy." Furthermore, he hopes to look out for the agrarian sector, considered by observers the "Achilles heel" of the PLN governments because the "agriculture of change" has not been assimilated yet by the peasants, who are accustomed to producing basic grains.

Castillo's program contemplates the need of strengthening the export sector, controlling the prices of staples, increasing wages, and building and repairing 160,000 homes during the four years of his administration.

The PLN governed from 1970 to 1978 under its founder, the now octogenarian Jose Figueres Ferrer (70-74), and later under Daniel Oduber (74-78). In 1978 it lost power to opposition leader Rodrigo Carazo, former party member, who ruled from 1978 to 1982 at the head of an opposition alliance with the participation of Calderon Fournier.

Polls Open Normally

PA0402123290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1131 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] San Jose, 4 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Costa Rican elections, in which Costa Ricans will elect the future president of this country, began today at 0500 (1100 GMT) amid complete normalcy.

Thousands of Costa Ricans were standing in line at the various schools and colleges where the 7,957 polling stations are located throughout the country.

The ballot boxes will be closed at 1800 (0000 GMT) and the results of the elections are expected to be released within 3 hours of the poll's closing.

The main contenders for the presidency are Carlos Manuel Castillo, social democratic candidate of the National Liberation Party, and Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier of the Social Christian Unity Party.

El Salvador

Acting President Discusses Dialogue With FMLN

PA0202221590 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Report by Nancy Perla]

[Text] Acting President Francisco Merino has expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved toward resuming dialogue with the guerrillas, but said at this point it is not possible to set a date for such talks.

Merino said mediation by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to accelerate the dialogue between the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and the government will establish significant bases, because this will make it possible for the insurgents to agree to greater commitments during the talks.

[Begin Merino recording] The nature of Mr. Perez de Cuellar's position implies a number of commitments worldwide. He has a very busy schedule, and this could slow down the dialogue process that should be resumed. By this, we mean that if he interposes his good offices, members of the FMLN would have no option other than to again participate in the dialogue, no longer with the irresponsible, traitorous attitude that they showed last year, but with the intention of complying with the agreements and commitments that are adopted; for example, with the commitment not to withdraw unilaterally from the conversations and the agreement to desist from the use of violence during the period when possible agreements are being explored. It would make no sense to talk of peace while waging war. To the contrary, it is necessary to create a climate so agreements can be reached. [end recording]

The acting president said it is not possible to set a date for the resumption of the talks, since there must first be a joint agreement between the FMLN and the government. On this subject, it was learned that Alvaro de Soto, personal representative of the UN secretary general for Central America, went to Mexico to meet with an FMLN delegation in an attempt to set a date for the dialogue.

The acting president declined to comment in advance on the results of President Cristiani's tour. Cristiani is scheduled to meet today with the U.S. President and Vice President, as well as with FBI representatives.

FMLN Issues Communique on UN Mediation

PA0302024390 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0028 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, in El Salvador on 2 February]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] hereby notifies the Salvadoran people and the international community of the following:

1. We see as positive that Mr. Cristiani has accepted UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's participation in the negotiation process in El Salvador. We feel the mediation of the UN secretary general and the framework of that international organization seriously commit both parties to negotiation and offer true possibilities so the process will lead toward a solution that will put an end to the war in our country.

2. In view of these possibilities, it is highly negative that the Bush administration has announced that the economic and military assistance to the government will be

increased in the forthcoming fiscal periods. If this decision is ratified by the U.S. Congress, it would mean a definite determination to prolong the war and the failure of the possibility that could lead to the negotiated solution of the Salvadoran conflict. The assistance strengthens the extremists. The political pressure makes it necessary to take political actions and strengthens the negotiated solution.

3. The Army continues to carry out permanent military offensives and repression. There continue to be a state of siege, murders, arrests, and persecution against people's and religious organizations; the press continues to be controlled; and international agreements continue to be violated as the evacuation of FMLN war cripples is not allowed.

Colonel Ponce openly proclaims his "Victory and Hammer" offensive against FMLN positions. This is not compatible, as the government wants the FMLN to unilaterally suspend operations. As long as there are repression and large military offensives, and a cease-fire is not agreed upon by the parties, we are obliged to remain at war and make offensive use of our military force in any part of the nation to achieve serious negotiation that will find a just solution to the war.

[Signed] The FMLN General Command

[Dated] 2 Feburary 1990, El Salvador

FMLN Meets UN Secretary General's Envoy

PA0302015190 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0048 GMT 3 Feb 90

["Press release" issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, Political and Diplomatic Commission in Mexico City on 2 February]

[Text] 1. On Thursday, 1 February, and Friday, 2 February, the FMLN held two meetings with Mr. Alvaro de Soto, the UN secretary general's personal representative. Attending on behalf of the FMLN were Ana Guadalupe Martinez and Salvador Samayoa.

2. Through this means the FMLN learned of the official stance to which Cristiani committed himself before the UN secretary general, something which contributed toward clarifying the situation following countless negative remarks the government, the army, and ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] made in the past concerning the resumption of talks and on the role of the UN secretary general.

3. The FMLN maintained its proposal to hold a meeting with the Salvadoran Government under the auspices and in the presence of the UN secretary general. The consultations of the secretary general continue to take place with both sides on this point. The UN secretary general will announce within the next days the results of the consultations.

4. As the effort by the UN secretary general opens possibilities, the FMLN is prepared to adopt a constructive stand so the peace process seriously heads toward a solution that will end the war in our country.

5. We thank the Mexican Government for the facilities they have provided to carry out this new and promising effort for peace in El Salvador.

[Signed] FMLN Political and Diplomatic Commission.

[Dated] 2 February 1990, Mexico City

Rebels Kill 6 Soldiers in Attack in Chalatenango

PA0202220390 Paris AFP in Spanish 2035 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Feb (AFP)—It was officially announced today that six Salvadoran soldiers were killed as a result of clashes with Salvadoran rebels in northern El Salvador over the past few hours. Meanwhile, it was also announced that the rebels attacked military positions in San Salvador, blew up a store, and burned a public bus.

The Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) reported that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and members of the 4th Infantry Brigade met in heavy clashes in the hamlet of El Zungano, in Chalatenango Department, in the northern part of the country, on the afternoon of 1 February. Six soldiers were killed as a result of the clashes. Coprefa added that several guerrillas were killed or wounded.

In addition, it was reported that the FMLN, an armed group that has been fighting against the government for almost 10 years, harassed two National Guard posts last night. The police reported that a powerful bomb went off at an electrical appliance store in downtown San Salvador this morning, causing only property damage.

Rebel Radio Reports 2 Feb Attack in Chalatenango

PA0402024590 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0019 GMT 4 Feb 90

["War bulletin" issued by the Chalatenango Joint Command; date and place not given]

[Text] At 1200 on 2 February, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Forces [FMLN] began a new military maneuver in Chalatenango Department.

The attack began in San Jose de las Flores between Llano Verde, Haciendita, and El Tamarindo. The FMLN forces attacked two Army companies located north of the Military Detachment No. 1 station. Reinforcements from Chalatenango City, who were coming to help the two companies, were also stopped by our forces. The maneuver ended at 0600 on Saturday, 3 February, after the two companies fled in complete disarray toward Las Flores Guarjila.

Attention. As a result of this maneuver, our forces inflicted approximately 13 casualties, including wounded or dead. We inflicted 13 casualties and seized one M-16 rifle, one U.S.-made Claymore mine, two backpacks, two complete sets of combat gear, ammunition, and other war materiel. Our forces encountered no difficulties during the attack.

The 13 casualties include one sergeant and one subsergeant. In addition, some soldiers got lost after the attack. The Chalatenango Joint Command urges soldiers to turn themselves in to our forces.

We will win!

[Signed] Chalatenango Joint Command

Ruben Zamora Favors Conditions for U.S. Aid

PA0302225090 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The U.S. Government is currently studying a reduction in economic aid to Latin America. El Salvador, the main recipient of U.S. aid in Central America, would be seriously affected by a reduction in aid, and the possibility of this has raised various reactions in our country.

Ruben Zamora, leader of the Social Christian People's Movement, said this afternoon that a reduction in economic aid to Latin America, including El Salvador, is inevitable. He said the United States will reduce aid because of its deficit.

[Begin Zamora recording] A reduction in aid is practically unavoidable because of U.S. domestic problems. The United States has a very high domestic deficit. You must keep in mind that the United States is the world's largest debtor, and it needs to balance its budget. Obviously, when there is a need to implement cutbacks, foreign aid is one of the first sectors to experience reductions. I believe that is one reason.

In the specific case of El Salvador, however, I believe that, in addition to the deficit problem, there is increasing awareness in Washington, and especially in Congress, that the United States has spent many years financing the war in El Salvador, sending almost $2 million a day. [end recording]

This week Congress began to mention putting certain conditions on the aid the Salvadoran Armed Forces will receive. Zamora said this is a positive development because it would contribute to promoting respect for human rights.

[Begin Zamora recording] I believe putting conditions on the military aid for our country is an extremely positive measure. It would send clear signals to all Salvadoran forces that we must all respect human rights—I believe that is the first condition—second, that the actions and opportunities of the opposition political parties and all social forces must be respected, and, third and most important of all, that we must begin a process of negotiation in the short term. I and my party fully support the three conditions placed by the U.S. Congress on granting military aid to El Salvador. [end recording]

Zamora believes the Salvadoran Government always invests the aid that is not destined for the Army in counterinsurgency plans, and that all the aid sent by the United States is directly and indirectly used in El Salvador's 10-year-long war.

Politician Analyzes Impact of Decreased Aid

PA0402202490 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Article by Mauricio Ramirez]

[Text] Developments of the past months in East Europe no doubt will have a great political impact in our country, known as the Tom Thumb of the Americas. The so-called Iron Curtain socialist countries underwent a number of changes in the last days of 1989—namely, the Berlin Wall falling in East Germany, a revolution toppling Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, thousands of Chinese students struggling for democratic reforms in their country. Also Poland, Hungary, and other countries until recently had a socialist system or communist system, as many people wrongly called it. Salvadoran politician Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes [leader of the Authentic Christian Movement] feels the international situation has changed the political panorama, since the socialist East European countries' departure from the communist ideology and the ensuing incorporation of these nations into the democratic process will have an impact on Latin America's developing nations. He mentioned a future lack of interest on the part of the United States for El Salvador.

[Begin Rey Prendes recording] The incorporation of East European countries into the democratic process will have a number of consequences that the developing countries may regard as dangerous. First, millions of dollars that were previously earmarked for the developing countries will now go to East Europe. For example, there is already talk of [words indistinct] with $12,000 billion. This will have an impact on Africa, Latin America, and some Asian countries.

Second, the reduction of tension, the creation of detente between the United States and the Soviet Union, the reduction of armies, the withdrawal of Russian troops from East Europe, the removal of U.S. bases in Europe, etc., change somewhat Latin America's geopolitical problem. U.S. interest in El Salvador as a geopolitical problem is beginning to lessen because the situation no longer appears to be a game between the world powers to control zones, since both are engaged in a process of detente. Third, and as a part of the detente process, the Soviet Union's aid to subversive groups in the world will logically diminish. [end recording]

The Salvadoran politician said that because of the above, developing countries may abandon Latin America for a period of 10 to 15 years as East Europe develops. As Rey Prendes noted, this region does not need more than 15 years to develop. He also mentioned other consequences of the democratic process taking place in East Europe.

[Begin Rey Prendes recording] These three factors can prompt the developing countries to abandon Latin America for a period of 10 to 15 years, while East Europe is developing. This area does not need more time than that to develop. Then, communist countries and the Soviet Union may abandon subversive groups. They may even pressure Cuba to reduce its role in these type of activities or to change its system and open up to the democratic process. Also, the United States may lose interest in the Salvadoran problem because it will cease to be a serious geopolitical problem for the United States.

There is a fourth factor, which I deem to be serious and has been mentioned often. The United States has been investing huge amounts of money in El Salvador for the war, but we do not have a peacetime program. Nicaragua does have a peacetime program. If there is democracy in Nicaragua, it will have the money that has been offered from all over the world. What will happen in El Salvador when the war ends? What will happen in El Salvador considering the three circumstances that I mentioned earlier?

I feel that if violence ends, the United States and many others would say there are no problems in El Salvador and abandon us. We must demand a peacetime program from the world and aid for peace. This will encourage all Salvadorans and we could then work seriously work for peace because there would be hope for reconstruction. [end recording]

Rey Prendes, therefore, asked for a peace program in which all the social forces of the country and the government could participate. It would seem that Rey Prendes' analysis is coming true, as the U.S. Congress has cut approximately $50 million in aid to our country, although the amount of military aid remains the same.

Archbishop Claims Church Persecution Continues

PA0502043790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1655 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 4 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—San Salvador Archbishop Monsignor Arturo Rivera y Damas said today that there is still "persecution" against the church by segments of the population who wish to see it "cornered into the sacristy." During his 4 February homily, which was officiated at the Sacred Heart Basilica of San Salvador, Rivera y Damas said church personnel are being treated "in a derogatory and violent manner" at military checkpoints.

He added: "And that is without mentioning the treatment received at the garrisons when interrogations are conducted to link the church to subversive activities."

The archbishop insisted that the Catholic Church will not be cornered into the sacristy, and pointed out that "persecution is a characteristic of the true church of Jesus Christ."

In the prelate's opinion, once dialogue leads to peace, "people will realize that the church fulfilled its mission."

Rivera y Damas described the upcoming participation of the UN secretary general in the Salvadoran conflict as "encouraging news." "I hope the two parties (government and guerrillas) will act seriously and responsibly," he said.

He also denounced the "abuses" that the Army and guerrillas continue to commit, especially the "five macabre murders in the style of the death squads that were discovered last week."

Amnesty Approved for Maimed FMLN Members

PA0202232990 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Report by Mauricio Funez from the Legislative Assembly on 1 February]

[Text] A temporary amnesty that will benefit 33 crippled FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] fighters who are at El Calvario Church was approved this morning by a Legislative Assembly plenum. The initiative was presented by President Alfredo Cristiani through the minister of the Presidency. The temporary amnesty decree favors the 33 crippled FMLN fighters who have occupied the El Calvario Church in the downtown area of the capital since October 1989.

According to Legislative Assembly President [Ricardo] Alvarenga Valdivieso, the approved law follows the guidelines of others that have been passed by this state organization. He noted that the law was passed despite the rebels' 11 November offensive.

[Begin Alvarenga Valdivieso recording] President Cristiani's request proves once more that he is certainly willing to deal seriously with our country's political, economic, and social crisis. It is also appropriate to mention that deputies of all the factions understood this and approved the bill. I believe it was approved by 49 votes. [end recording]

Alvarenga Valdivieso said the amnesty must be interpreted as a positive sign that advocates a political solution to the military conflict. According to the text of the approved law, there are persons who have yet to be processed, even though they have publicly stated that they are willing to leave the country to receive specialized medical treatment.

[Begin Alvarenga Valdivieso recording] The legislative branch gives its support to President Cristiani so these

persons can leave the country to receive medical assistance. I believe everyone should realize that the government of the Republic and the other state organizations support this.[end recording]

This is the second decree to be issued by President Cristiani's Administration. The Legislative Assembly president said the government will allow the beneficiaries of this law to leave the country in the shortest time possible.

The document was sent today to the executive branch for its approval and publication in the official gazette. Since it is a temporary law, it will become effective on the day of its publication. The decree leaves a door open so all those who are not mentioned in it and who wish to accept the amnesty's benefits may do so within a 30-day period, beginning from the date on which the amnesty becomes effective. A special executive and legislative branch commission will review each case separately.

Guatemala

Cerezo To Appeal Order Releasing Rebel Officers

PA0302040190 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0148 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 Jan (DPA)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo reported today that he will appeal the resolution issued by a Court of Appeals that ordered the release of a group of military officers who rebelled against the government on 9 May 1989.

President Cerezo said the court's resolution was a "hasty" one and that "this group of officers was favored by a system that they tried to break."

He added, however, that the case "is not over" and that "we will present an annulment appeal of the ruling issued by the magistrates of the Court of Appeals."

Six colonels and four lower-ranking officers in charge of the troops at two military bases in the interior of the country and of the Air Force tried to stage a coup d'etat last 9 May 1989, but were controlled in a few hours by troops loyal to the government of President Cerezo.

The coupists were found guilty and condemned in trials closely followed by the public, but their lawyers presented an appeal to a superior tribunal, which ruled in their favor.

Coupists Freed; Cerezo Appeals

PA0302184090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1633 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Official sources reported today that eight military men, who were prosecuted for the failed coup attempt last May in Guatemala, were freed after being discharged from the Army.

The freed military men are Colonels Raul Dehesa Oliva, Oscar Augusto Mendez Tobias, Cesar Ramon Quinteros, and Lieutenant Colonel Efrain Alonso Izaguirre.

In addition, Captains Carlos Alberto Arriaga, Juan Fernando Folgar, Major Byron Humberto Barrientos, and Lieutenant Jose Ariel Paiz were also freed.

Still under arrest for their involvement in the failed coup, and accused of "sedition and attempted theft of the presidential airplane" while attempting to flee the country are: Colonels Julio Cesar Padilla Gonzalez and Juan Adenolfo Galvez, and Captain Adalberto de la Pena.

The military men were prosecuted for "rebellion" in a court martial and a civilian tribunal, which sentenced them to prison terms of three, seven, and 10 years for their involvement in riots to topple Vinicio Cerezo's Christian Democrat civilian government.

The release of the officers took place five days after an appeals court modified the charge of "rebellion" to that of "attempted rebellion," and reduced their terms to three commutable years.

The military men's defense lawyers and opposition politicians described the officers' release as "a triumph of justice," because it proves "the independence of the powers."

President Cerezo, through the government's district attorney, presented an appeal for annulment because, according to him, the decision to release the men was made "hurriedly."

Army Denies Guerrillas Attacked President's Farm

PA0402172090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1625 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 4 Feb (ACAN-EFE)— The Guatemalan Army denied today that guerrillas attacked the "Santo Tomas" presidential farm, located on the Pacific side, where President Cerezo has been staying since 2 February.

A report published by the "CERIGUA" news agency—mouthpiece of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG)—whose main offices are in Mexico, says that a guerrilla column attacked the farm two days ago.

However, Armed Forces spokesman Colonel Luis Arturo Isaacs said the attack, which resulted in the death of a civilian who was passing by at the time of the skirmish, was not against the farm, and that President Cerezo is safe and sound.

He added that on 3 February President Cerezo met with the diplomatic corps accredited in Guatemala.

The government also issued a communique describing the rebel report as "false and incorrect," and stressing that the president was never in danger.

Colonel Isaacs said the guerrillas attacked the "La Eminencia" farm located near the "Santo Tomas" farm, where they burned the facilities and stole food.

A military patrol clashed with a rebel column and inflicted three casualties, which were taken away by the guerrillas who fled to the mountains, Isaacs noted.

He also reported that guerrillas killed a peasant in the city of Flores, in the northern El Peten Department, and burned a tank truck.

New Specific Affairs Minister Sworn In

PA0502041090 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 20 Jan 90 p 9

[Excerpt] Dr. Carlos Armando Soto Menegazzo was sworn in today as the new minister for specific affairs to replace Mrs. Sara Mishaan Rossell, who resigned.

Angel Flores and Carlos Campos, who were promoted to first and second deputy ministers, respectively, were also installed. [passage omitted]

Honduras

Minister Comments on Possible IMF Sanctions

PA0202225090 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 2 Feb 90 p 46

[Text] Benjamin Villanueva, minister of finance and public credit, yesterday denied any knowledge of a U.S. request of the IMF to sanction Honduras and 10 other countries that have fallen behind in their payments to that institution.

According to international dispatches, the U.S. Government asked the IMF to implement drastic sanctions against delinquent countries. Honduras heads the list, and therefore was declared ineligible for more credit some months ago.

Villanueva abstained from commenting on the subject, stating he has no information on it and adding that generally the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa would inform us of such a decision.

He added that perhaps it is just a mechanism of pressure to force governments to get up to date in their payments.

However, Villanueva said the worse sanction against Honduras has been to declare the country ineligible and freezing its credit.

Meanwhile, a top business executive said that considering that international credit organizations act as banks, they could go so far as to embargo Honduran Central Bank accounts.

On another subject, Villanueva said the self-prescribed high salaries earned by customs officials—ranging from 15,000 to 20,000 lempiras—have been eliminated, as they "constituted abuse."

Such positions will be less attractive now, Villanueva said, adding that the new customs administrators have not yet been appointed to select the best qualified men to fill the positions.

Commentary Suggests U.S. 'Tightening the Screws'

PA0202192190 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Commentary: "The United States is Tightening the Screws"]

[Text] Some people naively think that a country curries favor with the U.S. just by being democratic. Some people have placed themselves at the service of this superpower, as long as the superpower has had need of them. However, once they have outlived their usefulness, not only are they abandoned, but now they are even kidnapped, jailed, and sentenced.

This happened to Perez Jimenez of Venezuela; Leonidas Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, who was murdered by the CIA; Somoza of Nicaragua; and lately Noriega of Panama.

These men are valued only as long as they are useful to the United States. Once they are no longer useful, they are no longer regarded as men. Apparently something similar happens with countries. If a country has any political, military, or strategic value, that country will enjoy Washington's preference. However, once the interest no longer exists, the aid is over. If the interest decreases, the aid decreses.

Honduras is a typical example of this policy for the world to see. The Poindexter trial showed that over the Senate's objection, special aid was granted to Honduras in exchange for converting it into a leased territory for contra operations.

The years in which our territory shamefully served to shed blood in one our neighboring countries are years in which Honduras was regarded as a country deserving military and economic aid.

With the change of U.S. policy, after it accepted its military failure against Nicaragua, Honduras is no longer the apple of its eye, according to the United States. That is why the United States is not only grudging its aid, but is not even granting the scant aid already approved, unless Honduras agrees to additional conditions.

There is something else. Since the United States is the IMF's most important member and supporter, it has asked the IMF to tighten the screws on Honduras, and to even let Honduras use up its meager gold reserves until Honduras is forced to say, "forgive me, master."

As we can recall, when the gold standard was abandoned for the dollar standard and Special Drawing Rights, when the

IMF and other measures were created, each country deposited gold reseves to back up its currency exchange. Thereafter, its monetary backing would depend on its reserve of dollars and other strong currencies.

That is how getting foreign reserves became the main concern of nations if they wanted to maintain the parity of their currency.

As a result of the oil crisis, which on the one hand saved the oil-producing countries, and on the other hand dealt a blow to the oil importers, plus the uncontrolled foreign debt that the petrodollars boom brought with it, the countries went to the hilt in debt. At the same time they lost huge sums in the international markets because of the drop in the prices of coffee, silver, tin, copper, and other export products.

In short, the source of exchange decreased for everyone, even though production of each item increased. Debts grew until they became nightmares that absorbed almost all the country's foreign income. The monetary reserves that were backing the currencies fell. That is why in Latin America there has been one devaluation after another, country after country.

In the beginning the IMF used what was called a stand-by [preceding words in English] loan, which helped countries when they ran short of reserves. With those emergency loans they could maintain the parity of their currency until they could balance their reserves.

However, countries like Honduras, which were deeply indebted, began to fill their lack of international reserves with loans and donations. Even so, the country continued to pay its imports and expenses in foreign exchange, until it reached the current situation in which we cannot pay the debt. We are overdue $140 million in payments on our debt. Our credit is no longer good. The IMF has no more money to give to Honduras to continue its vicious cycle of getting into debt to pay off its debts. Yet the United States has asked the IMF to tighten our screws.

Our monetary reserves total zero, which indicates that we have nothing with which to back up our currency. If we have nothing with which to back it up, the logical thing is that the lempira will also have no value, and it will be devaluated much more if the IMF carries out its purpose, on Washington's request, to mobilize our meager gold reserves. This would be a coup d'grace to the parity of the lempira. If this does not take us finally to officially devaluate the lempira, we do not see what other alternative would be left for this or any government.

It is not that the United States is bad or ungrateful. The United States is governed by men who have been elected to their posts to defend people who elected them so they could safeguard their interests, grandeur, wealth, and power. They did not send Mr. Bush or each U.S. Senator to safeguard the interests of Honduras or Mexico or Peru or even poor Nicaragua. No, these men were elected to safeguard the interests of the United States. Whoever interprets the conduct of the United States in any other way is naive. One is treated and paid well, only as long as one is in the interests of the United States. If there is no interest, there is no aid and there is no payment. Things have changed in Central America.

We are no longer of use in the sad, shameful role of leased territory. Nor do we play a relevant role in the new international policy of Washington. With things standing this way, the United States is going to tighten our screws until we say: "Sorry, master."

Nicaragua

Further on Ortega Reaction to Baker's Remarks

PA0202204690 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1944 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] President Daniel Ortega has said that his government is willing to work in favor of an understanding to normalize the relations between Nicaragua and the United States. The president's statement is the first Nicaraguan reaction to recent remarks by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who said his country would be willing, but with some conditions.

Baker had stated to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the relations could be normalized on the condition that Nicaragua hold free and just elections and suspend its support for subversion in Latin America.

The Nicaraguan president said his government has always been willing to normalize bilateral ties and has insisted that the United States stop supporting the mercenaries. He said the U.S. Administration has taken some positive steps mixed in with its policy that is contradictory to and disrespectful of international law. As an example, he mentioned the recent allocation of $3 million to the International Commission of Support and Verification, CIAV, for the demobilization of the contras, a figure which, although not in line with what was proposed by the Central American presidents, is a positive gesture.

Public opinion held in the United States, where the Sandinist National Liberation Front's [FSLN] election victory is taken for granted, should lead President George Bush and Secretary Baker to seek a realistic policy toward Nicaragua, Ortega said after indicating that the White House should learn to understand and respect small countries.

Regarding Baker's criticism that Nicaragua did not permit the entry of U.S. congressmen as election observers, the president replied that the U.S. Government's decision to appoint a commission to supervise the 25 February elections without having received authorization to do so is unacceptable.

Ortega Urges 'Serious Talks' on U.S. Relations

PA0402032690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0303 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Jinotepe (Nicaragua), 3 Feb (DPA)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega today urged the government of

President George Bush to "begin serious, profound talks" to normalize the relations between the two countries and "to put an end to the U.S. policy of death toward Nicaragua."

The president made the statement before 5,000 persons who gathered in the Nicaraguan region of Jinotepe, 45 km from Managua, during an electoral rally organized by the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Ortega, accompanied by several FSLN deputy candidates, said that the U.S. Government must demonstrate before the international community that powers such as the United States "are learning to respect small nations such as Nicaragua."

The president referred to the upcoming pardons that the Nicaraguan Parliament will approve this coming week to benefit 39 officers of the former Somozist National Guard and 1,186 convicts who are in prison for participating in "contra" activities.

Ortega, Ramirez Discuss Elections With Carter

PA0202231690 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 29 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado held a private meeting yesterday with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in the city of San Jorge, Rivas.

The three discussed the elections. Commander Daniel Ortega explained to Carter in detail how the U.S. financing of the counterrevolutionary forces harms the electoral process.

The former U.S. president is on his third visit to Nicaragua, this time in the capacity of an international observer and the representative of the Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government.

Ortega Comments on Contras, U.S. at Rally

PA0302132590 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] President Daniel Ortega has said at a rally in Jinotega that U.S. President George Bush should demand that the contras release all of the Nicaraguans they have kidnapped and about whom nothing is known. He said also that in an effort to achieve peace, the Nicaraguan Government will release over 1,000 contras and 39 former Somozist guardsmen.

Ortega Demands That Contras Release Prisoners

PA0402020090 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] In Nueva Segovia and at the close of his political campaign, President Daniel Ortega demanded that the counterrevolutionaries release the people they have kidnapped and that the U.S. Government respect the Nicaraguan people's sovereignty and dignity. Twenty-six days prior to the elections, the people of Nueva Segovia celebrated the Sandinist National Liberation Front's victory. The people of Nueva Segovia regard themselves as winners because of the construction of a teachers' and nurses' school, 13 kindergartens, and 100 homes, among other things.

After introducing candidates for deputies for the department of Segovia, Ortega referred to the pardon for contras and Somozist guards. He said the United States must release those who have been kidnapped by the counterrevolutionaries.

[Begin Ortega recording] I say it here, from the Segovias. I expect the U.S. Government to decide and immediately pressure the contras into releasing those who have been kidnapped. This was also the opinion of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo at the meeting we held, in which the contras were urged to set free those who have been kidnapped. If we now have 1,044 joyous and glad mothers and families because their husbands, sons, and relatives, contras and Somozist guards, are going to be set free, more than 1,000 mothers are broken-hearted because they do not know where their sons are or whether they are still alive because they were kidnapped by the contras. [end recording]

Ortega said that in this month alone the contras' actions have resulted in 182 civilian casualties. He also said this is unfair because the Nicaraguan Government is willing to work in peace. He said he is sure that the U.S. Government will improve its relations with Nicaragua after the elections.

[Begin Ortega recording] We are a worthy, courageous, and sovereign power. The United States must learn that not only the big powers are valuable, but that we of small countries are worthy as well. Just as the United States respects the big countries, it must also respect the small countries. The Yankees will have this opportunity after the 25 February elections. [end recording]

Ortega Concludes Visit to North Atlantic Region

PA0302205090 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] In what was more than the visit of a presidential candidate on the campaign trail, President Daniel Ortega has concluded a 2-day visit to the Northern Atlantic Autonomous region. Ortega met with local leaders and talked to businessmen, bus drivers, and dock workers. He listened to their problems and praised their achievements. The FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] candidate began his visit on 31 January escorted by a crowd of 12,000. He then went to the Marcos Sobarriba Square where he promised the people of Puerto Cabezas, Siuna, Rosita, Bonanza, and Waspam that he would undertake efforts to improve the region's situation.

On 1 February, the president had breakfast with dock workers and inaugurated a pier worth over $4 million. Later he visted the towns of Sisin and Santa Marta, 60

kms west of Puerto Cabezas. Referring to the region's economic problems, the president said that once the war is over its economic recovery is ensured.

Ortega talked with the parents of nun Maria Teresa Rosales who was murdered by the contras. He comforted them and explained the details of the murder. As dusk was nearing, President Ortega attended a religious service at Moravian Church, in Puerto Cabezas, where he prayed for peace.

During a meeting on 1 February between President Ortega and Puerto Cabezas market vendors, the president said that he would get them a loan for 300 million cordobas so that they could purchase products. Ortega, who wrapped up a tour in that Northern Atlantic Autonomous region, promised the area bus drivers that he would restore the terminal to improve transportation. The region's evangelical leaders asked the president for construction materials to build their churches, as most of them were destroyed by the contras. In this respect, Ortega said that he would send the construction materials within the framework of a emergency plan, enabling the town to soon have its churches.

Ortega Makes Campaign Speech in Somoto

PA0402235290 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega in Somoto—live]

[Text] [Ortega] You seem to have taken a lot of sun. [Crowd shouts indistinct response] I see that you have taken a lot of sun. [Crowd shouts: "No!"] I see you are downhearted. [Crowd shouts: "No!"] I see you are bored. [Crowd shouts: "No!"] I see you are tired. [Crowd shouts: "No!"] How are you? [Crowd shouts: "Fine!"] Where are those hands? [Crowd shouts: "Here!"] Where are those hats? Those caps? Those flags? Let us hear that the people of Somoto are here. [Crowd applauds and shouts indistinct slogans]

Comrade Carlos Mejia Godoy was remembering that this stadium was constructed with the participation of all the people. Everybody contributed, and this is how the stadium was built. Everybody contributed, and in this manner [words indistinct] Comrade Carlos Mejia was telling me—Carlos is here today—that there is still a debt pending [crowd shouts indistinct remarks] for 65,857,000.50 cordobas. This debt is going to be cancelled so that the stadium is left without any pending debt. [Crowd shouts and applauds] This has just been done by Carlos Mejia for Somoto. [Crowd shouts indistinct slogans]

Do you know who the presidential candidate is? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Do you know who the vice presidential candidate is? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] But do you know who the candidates for deputy are? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Let us see. We have divided the country into regions to become better organized in the fields of defense and production. We had to make this division because we have been at war. However, the fact that this type of organization developed into what we call regions does not make the departments disappear. When we talk about Region 1, we are referring to the departments of Madriz, Nueva Segovia, and Esteli. Each department continues to have its own personality and characteristics. The personality of the department does not have to be lost. The cultural, productive, and artistic resources of the department cannot be lost. The deputy candidates that are running belong to different departments of Region 1. They are from Esteli, Nueva Segovia, and Madriz. Now, here in Somoto, capital of this heroic and battling Madriz Department, I will present the candidates for deputy.

First, Comrade Francisco Rivera, or El Zorro. [crowd applauds] Comrade Orlando Tineda, or Tinedita. [Crowd applauds and shouts slogans] Comrade Francisco Valenzuela. [applause] Oh, so you all know Pancho.

Comrade Orlando Benavides. [Crowd shouts indistinct nickname] Comrade Apolinar Cruz [Crowd shouts: "Polin!"] Oh, Polin is playing baseball right now; he is leading his team; he has a responsibility to his team. There are females too, correct? How many women are gathered here? Where are those women? [Women shout: "Here!"] Where are those women? Where are those women? We have female deputy candidates here, too. Comrade Susana Aguilera. [Crowd shouts indistinct slogans]

Comrade Ramon Games. [Crowd shouts: "Moncho!"] Moncho, Moncho Games. Comrade Carlos Manuel Morales. [Crowd shouts indistinct slogans] Comrade Roberto Laguna. [applause, indistinct slogans] Comrade Marta Mungia, another woman. [applause] Comrade Manuel Maldonado. [applause] Evelio Ovando, who is an important candidate. [applause, indistinct slogans] And a comrade you all know, namely Norma Elena Gadea. [applause, indistinct slogans]

There are also Eriberto Rodriguez [applause, indistinct slogans] and Comrade Rosario Antunez [applause, indistinct slogans]. There are quite a few female candidates. We have a good representation. There is also Rosario Altamirano, another female deputy candidate. [crowd shouts indistinct words; woman shouts: "We want Norma Elena Gadea to sing!"] You want Norma Elena to sing? [crowd answers: "Yes!"] Norma Elena, they want to hear you sing. Is there a guitar? She is going to sing with Carlos Mejia. Let them sing now. We will incorporate the singing of Carlos Mejia, Norma Elena, and Luis Henriquez into the speech. Do you agree that this will be part of the speech? [Crowd answers: "Yes!"] That way we make the speech less boring. We spice it up.

Let the people see the singers. We will leave some baseball equipment here. You like to play baseball, do you not? [Crowd answers: "Yes!"] I brought some baseball equipment; I brought four sets. Let me have that mitt; let me check it out. [Crowd cheers]

[Announcer] Carlos Mejia Godoy, a native of Somoto, and Norma Elena Gadea will sing a song during this

gathering of the president of the Republic with the people of Somoto. More than 20,000 people welcomed the Nicaraguan president in this heroic town of Somoto. They gave numerous gifts to the president, including Somoto bread, the most famous in all of Nicaragua. Breaking away from the protocol of past rallies, we will now listen to Norma Elena sing.

The president is posing with some children. Many parents have come here with their children, and they are quite pleased to see the president pose with their children for a picture, with the children that the president of peace, the president of the Nicaraguans, loves so much.

As we said, the president has received numerous gifts, including the famous Somoto bread. This morning, local teachers decorated him with the ANDEN [National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers] order, which is the top distinction granted by the teachers. He also received the Henequen Flower, which is the symbol of the Somoto people, of all the people of Madriz.

As we draw closer to the elections, the people grow more enthusiastic and happy with the visit of the president of the republic. Let us listen to the comrades who are getting ready to sing a song, Carlos Mejia Godoy and Norma Elena Gadea.

[Mejia, in progress] ...this significant event, although we presented the first instruments yesterday. All the new instruments for the Somoto Municipal Band, which are valued at $18,000, will be arriving on 20 February, before the elections. Since you have spontaneously suggested that we have somebody sing something, Norma Elena Gadea, Luis Enrique, and this Somoteno native, raised near (Miqui Wispe), will sing the slogan: Those black and red hearts. Let's hear those hands, those hands. [Crowd claps during 3-minute song about FSLN victory in elections]

[Ortega] Free fatherland! [Crowd answers: "Or death!"] On the 25th! [Crowd answers: "In box No. five!"]

[Announcer] Now we will continue to listen to the speech by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, after having heard Carlos Mejia Godoy and Luis Enrique, accompanied by Norma Elena Gadea, who are natives of Somoto, rendering a great tribute to President and FSLN presidential candidate Daniel Ortega Saavedra. It is incredible to see how they greeted President Daniel Ortega Saavedra here in Somoto. Let us continue to listen to the president. Bring a young girl to take a photograph. All right then, after he is through speaking.

[Ortega] I wanted to tell you the following. I wanted to tell you that a few days ago I spoke with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. I explained to him that after the elections on the 25th I was convinced that the situation would improve in Nicaragua, that the war has to be eradicated in Nicaragua, although the United States still has doubts. If they have doubts, that is good, because they did not have doubts before. Before, they thought they could put an end to the revolution. Now they know they cannot. They have doubts as to when to begin to seek an agreement with Nicaragua. I explained to Cardinal Obando y Bravo that I am willing to talk with the United States, to begin a process of understanding. The United States should learn or must learn to respect smaller nations. The United States has to respect not only the big countries, the economic and military powers, but also the small countries. They must also respect the small countries. The Nicaraguan people have won the right to be respected. I am convinced that the moment will have to arrive for an understanding between the United States and Nicaragua. Meanwhile, the United States still does not do everything it should do in favor of peace, in favor of the agreements of the Central American presidents. The fact that the United States has U.S. troops engaging in military maneuvers in Honduras does not help peace in Central America. What are the Yankee troops doing in Honduran territory? What are they doing deployed throughout Honduran territory, engaging in threatening military maneuvers? What are they achieving with this? They are only affecting the peace process of the Central American countries. They are also affecting the agreements reached by the Central American presidents. The five Central American presidents signed an agreement several years ago. We signed an agreement in August 1987. We have been working on those agreements year after year. What has been the principal battle being waged by Nicaragua all these years? Let us see, what is the principal battle? The battle for what? [Someone shouts: "For peace!"] For peace. Are you in favor of peace? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Or are you in favor of war? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Are you in favor of peace? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Or are you in favor of war? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Are you in favor of peace? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Or are you in favor of war? [Crowd shouts: "No!"]

We have been waging this battle for peace year in and year out. The last agreements were very important. In the last agreements the five Central American presidents decided to take the contras out of Honduran territory, to demobilize the contras, to repatriate to Nicaragua those wishing to return to Nicaragua, and to allow those who want to stay in Honduras to do so and those who wish to go to the United States to do so. They have to receive them, but they do not want to receive them this year. This will give you an idea of how difficult those Yankees are. They send them to fight, and now they do not want to receive them. They do not want to receive those who want to go to the United States.

But look how generous the Nicaraguans, the Sandinists, the revolutionaries are. While the Yankees do not want to receive the contras, we are willing to receive them, to have them come to work, to have them come to produce in Nicaragua, to come in a peaceful frame of mind, and we will receive them well here in Nicaragua. Many of the contras have been joining the peace plan. It is important to bear that in mind. In fact there have been problems, because I have talked in several places with the peace commissions which are made up of evangelic pastors, of

delegates of the Catholic Church, of Catholic laymen, and they have told me that there are not enough resources to help the people who are returning from Honduras and who were linked with the contras. Many of them are out in the open on returning to Nicaragua; they have no lodging. We are seeking ways of finding a roof and materials, so that they can make themselves at home and work and produce in this country. Those are the differences.

While the Yankees, who invented the contras, who invented Somozism, who invented the UNO, while those Yankees do not want to receive the contras in their country, the Nicaraguans, who have suffered the violence of the contras, the peasants, the cooperatives, which have been the victims of the contras' crimes, the youths who have been the victims of the contra's crimes, in spite of everything, are willing to receive them here.

More than that, I told Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo yesterday that, as a gesture to help the Nicaraguan peace process, in the first week of February I was going to send a pardon request to the National Assembly, so that the country's jails will open once and for all, and those who have been serving time for their counterrevolutionary activities may go free. This includes the 39 Somozist National Guardsmen who were not released before, although I asked for their release last time. The National Assembly did not want to let them go. I will once again ask that these 39 National Guardsmen be released. With this the revolution is showing it is strong. It is showing it is generous. It is showing its desire for peace is total and absolute. We do not want to give a single pretext to the Yankees so they can continue being a bother. The Yankees will have no pretexts to continue bothering Nicaragua.

And so, what do I ask the Yankees from Somoto, Nicaragua? I must ask the Yankees, I must demand the Yankees to order the contras —since they pay the contras—to release the kidnapped persons. Last night, in a Managua neighborhood, I talked to the mother of a kidnapped person. In tears she told me: We are going insane. We do not know about our sons and daughters. And so, the least the Yankees can do, the least the Honduran Government can do, is to pressure the contras, demand that the contras release the kidnap victims because we are now releasing contras and Somozist guardsmen.

What are you saying? [Ortega speaks to unidentified person who cannot be heard] You were kidnapped? What? Your daughters were kidnapped? They have not turned up yet? What are their names? Lucia Garcia. And the other one? Juana Francisca Garcia Cali. Here is a mother whose two daughters were kidnapped. And so, from Somoto, Nicaragua, we are demanding that the contras release the kidnapped persons; we are demanding that the contras end the war; we are demanding that the contras end the war and accept the peace offer so that peace can come to Nicaragua. [applause]

Elections will be on 25 February; elections will be on 25 February. How many days are left until the 25th? [Crowd shouts: "21!"] Yes, 21 days, 21 days, and so it is good if all you gathered here, when you return to your neighborhood here in Somoto, or when you return to your region, or when you return to the village or municipality where you come from, to talk every day with friends, relatives, and neighbors.

We must talk with them every day to explain to them well the meaning of these elections and how important it is for all of us to cast our vote on the 25th, and how important the participation of all Nicaraguans is. We have to tell them: These are not everyday elections. These elections are between Nicaragua and the Yankees, between war and peace. Nicaragua defends peace. The Yankees, contras, UNO [National Opposition Union], and Somozists, who are all the same thing, defend war. If we want peace, in what box must we cast our vote? [Crowd shouts: "The fifth!"] The fifth one.

We must explain to people, friends, relatives, and neighbors that the Patriotic Military Service [SMP] does not cause death. The Yankees, contras, UNO, and Somozists are saying the SMP must end because it is the cause of death and sorrow in Nicaraguan families. I ask you: If the SMP is abolished and the war continues, will there be no more deaths in Nicaragua? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] If the war ends, will violent deaths disappear in Nicaragua? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] Will the boys in the SMP die if there is no war? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Of course not. The SMP is not the cause of death. The war is. If we do not want mothers suffering, if we do not want sons suffering, if we do not families suffering, if we do not want young people, peasants, or anybody dying in Nicaragua because of the war, then we must stop the war, not the SMP.

To end the war all of us must cast our vote on the 25th. In which box number? [Crowd shouts: "Five!"] Box number five. We must explain all this to the people, lest they make a mistake. The UNO people: Who are they? Look at that mixture: Somozists, contras, and communists are in it. What kind of mixture is that? The Communist Party of Nicaragua is in the UNO. The Communist Party, Somozists, and contras are there in an odd mixture concocted by the Yankees. This is a badly made roll. Good rolls are made in Somoto, and we must bring Bush here so he can learn to make rolls. [applause] That is what the UNO is, a badly made roll, because Bush made it and he has no idea how to make rolls. We would have to bring him for two days so he can learn to make rolls. [applause] So we must explain to people that Nicaragua's economic problem was caused by the war.

Let us see, let us ask... [changes thought] There are humble, simple folks, and we must care for those people and raise their awareness. We have to tell them: Look, when have the contras or Somozism ever built schools? When have they constructed health centers? When have they constructed cooperatives? Ask them when they have done this. Tell me when. Tell them: Who came to build

the school here in this municipality where there was no school before? Who else but the revolution? Who constructed the health center, the cooperative? Who else but the revolution? Who gave land to the peasants? It was the revolution. Who brought transportation? It was the revolution. Who repaired the roads? The revolution. What have the Yankees, the contras, UNO, Somozism done? Who has destroyed the schools in the rural areas of Nicaragua? [Crowd shouts indistinct response to this and following eight questions] Who has destroyed the health centers? Who has destroyed cooperatives? Who has destroyed bridges? Who has murdered peasants? Who has murdered children? Who has murdered priests and nuns? Who has ambushed people on the roads? Who has destroyed transportation?

Then, it was the contras, the Yankees, UNO, Somozism, as they are all the same thing. The GN [National Guard]-UNO knows how to murder. The GN-UNO knows how to destroy. The GN-UNO knows how to torture. However, the people know how to construct. The people know how to build. The people know how to build our economy. The people know how to increase services. The people know how to make a truly strong economic policy.

They cannot come now with the story that they have the formula to resolve the Nicaraguan economic problem. How is the problem of cooking oil here? Is there cooking oil? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Is there cooking oil? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Do you know who the owners of the oil plants in Nicaragua are? [Crowd shouts: "Yes!"] It is the UNO people. UNO people are the ones who have private firms. The owners are private businessmen. The rich guys [words indistinct] of the firm. We intervened some time ago, but they started to appeal and say this and that, and we returned the firms. Now they have caused the oil shortage. Then, if those people cannot even produce oil and, although they have the plant and Yankee support, they are not capable of supplying oil to the people, they will be even less able to resolve the economic problems of Nicaragua and Somoto. They cannot resolve these problems. We have to tell people who could be a bit mixed up: Brother, the economic problem will be resolved. But who is going to resolve it? It will be resolved by you and me, the workers, the rural workers, the small, medium, and large producers, the artisans, the farmers. These people are the ones who will resolve the Nicaraguan economic problem. We are the ones who will make the Nicaraguan economy go forward. We are the ones who with God's will and with our work will make an economic miracle in Nicaragua. We will make Nicaragua an example in socio-economic development, not only in Central America but also in Latin America and the Caribbean. [applause]

We must explain that to them. Who produces coffee in this country? How is coffee produced? Small-scale, medium-scale, and large-scale farmers, workers or pickers, and the permanent workers who care for the coffee plantations produce it. Coffee production has gone up. This year we are producing more coffee than last year, although the price went down. Meat production for export also went up. Sorghum production has gone up. The production of basic grains has been kept with a policy of subsidies. Peasants know it.

Yesterday I met with Masaya farmers. I told them: Things that could never happen with UNO people are happening here in Nicaragua, with the revolution. The Central Bank has orders not to harm anyone due to debts; namely, not to take a peasant's land because he cannot pay his debt. Look how things are. A few days ago, I was in Matagalpa at the farm of a man named Clarence Barker. It was a big farm. Other large-scale farmers were there, the kind of farmers who are patriotic, who are not contras, who criticize the mistakes of the government and the revolution but have kept on producing.

One of them told me: Look, you are saying that the bank cannot take land away over debts. The bank did that, it took my land away. I jotted that down. This is odd because I gave precise orders. Another farmer told me: The bank took my land over a debt. Another said: Daniel, the bank also took my land away for this reason. I made a list of approximately eight farmers. I do not know if that has happened to any farmers here now. I jotted that down. Is there any peasant here whose land was taken away by the bank over a debt? [Crowd shouts] There is one. The bank took it away over a debt. Come here. That farm must be returned to that man. [Crowd cheers] This is the first person to say that in a big rally like this. In Matagalpa I met eight farmers to whom that had happened. Eight.

Look, those whose lands have been taken away by the bank over debts must come this way. This is not correct. The bank must return those lands to you. Come this way. So, listen to this. Talk to Gilberto [not further identified] so that he can take note. Come up. Write this down. Ask him when his farm was taken away by the bank. What?

[Man] Twenty years.

[Ortega] This was 20 years ago. [crowd laughs] You fooled me. Let them come up. The fact is that I think I did not pose the question right. What is your name?

[Man] Pedro Castro.

[Ortega] When did the Central Bank receive... [changes thought] How long ago?

[Castro] Approximately 18 years ago.

[Ortega] How much did you owe the bank?

[Castro] About 200,000 cordobas each year.

[Ortega] And how much was the farm worth?

[Castro] More than 1 million, and it is worth more now.

[Ortega] It was worth over 1 million then? So the bank kept a farm worth over 1 million for 200,000 cordobas which is what he owed. That is a steal, a steal! Of course it was.

[Castro] It also stole the cattle.

[Ortega] The cattle also? But it was not the Central Bank with the revolution?

[Castro] No. It was not, it was before.

[Ortega] Do you own land now? You have a small farm. The land reform can help you continue producing, as that is the responsibility of the revolution. Those things happened in the past. But we are going to jot that down, so that the land reform can help you continue producing. And so, [crowd shouts] listen to me, what is happening here? The bank [words indistinct] after the triumph of the revolution. Let him come here. Let me finish the story. Listen. This is the funniest part of the story I was telling you about, regarding the eight cases in Matagalpa in the time of the revolution. This happened with the revolution, whereas that man's case happened 20 years ago. Eight Matagalpa farmers lost their farms because of their debts. You may ask: Why so many cases? I told the bank that it cannot allow that. Thinking that this happened a short while ago, I asked when it had happened. The man told me: It was in early 1981.

That was at the time of the junta of national reconstruction. I was not the president of Nicaragua. Who was the president of that bank at that time? Alfredo Cesar, he tells me. So that is the thing. When this man was president of the Central Bank he followed the same policies of the Somoza era. He is the one in UNO, one of UNO's big leaders. When he was the Central Bank president, with the revolution, the revolution had no impact on him. He continued acting as in the times of Somoza. He did the same thing the bank did before, 20 years ago, when it loaned money to the man who just spoke here.

This means, as Central Bank president, Alfredo Cesar harmed all those farmers, and who knows how many more. I learned about that in Matagalpa. I met with the people who came to talk to me. Then I told the farmers that we were going to find ways to repair the damage, as this happened in the time of the revolution. It would have been different if this had happened in the Somoza era, but this happened in the time of the revolution. The revolution gave lands to some peasants who lost their lands during Somoza's time. The revolution gave lands.

Yesterday, I talked to the Masaya sorghum farmers. There are many sorghum farmers there. The sorghum harvest did not go well. They harvested an average of 30 quintals per manzana, when they should have harvested an average of 50 quintals per manzana. They harvested 30 quintals because of the drought, which was followed by heavy rains. It was raining heavily during harvest time. So the sorghum harvest was bad.

What did they ask for? They did not say: Daniel, I hope the bank does not take my land away because I cannot pay my debt. They did not say that. They said: Talk to the bank to restructure our debt, and we can continue working. We want it to continue lending us money so we can continue working and producing next year. This is what peasants in Esquipulas, Matiguas, Muy Muy, Rio Blanco, Nueva Guinea, and all over Nicaragua have told me. This is the peasant's intention. They want to produce well. When the harvest is poor because of lack of rain, peasants want to restructure their debts. The bank does that.

What do we stand to gain if the bank keeps the land of people who cannot pay? What do we stand to gain by that? Everybody would be left without land, and the bank would only sell land to very wealthy people who can afford it. [Words indistinct] and this is the economic policy they would follow. We know them. They would take the land away from the peasants who cannot pay their debts. With the revolution, those times came to an end, those times were buried. If we made that mistake in 1981, it was because a man with a Somozist mentality was in the Central Bank, and the revolution had not influenced him. Now, on the contrary, that sort of case no longer happens. No peasant, small-scale, medium-scale, and large-scale farmer tells me the bank wants to foreclose on his land. No single farmer tells me that. As long as there is a revolution, Sandinism, people ruling the people, the land will belong to those who work it and not to the bank; the land will belong to peasants and not to the bank; the land will belong to farmers and not to the bank; the land will belong to the people and not to the bank. [applause]

[Words indistinct] fraud, come here. He says he sold his land and got paid with a check without funds. Let the farm owner come here. Those who [words indistinct] Gilberto, handle these comrades. Take note, and later we will answer them. Write down their addresses so we can answer them. Let those who want to talk about their problems come forward.

I want to greet everyone who is here in this plaza—the men, women, children, and the people on horseback. Where are those people on horseback? I think they have left by now. I also want to greet the people who have welcomed me on the streets, these warm Somoto streets. They are warm with enthusiasm. I am convinced that we have won these elections. The people have been voicing their support for the revolution. To vote for the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] in box number five on 25 Feburary is to vote for Nicaragua. It does not matter if you are not an FSLN militant. It does not matter if your family is conservative or liberal. After all, who has not been either a conservative or a liberal in Nicaragua? The important thing is that you be a Nicaraguan, and if you are a Nicaraguan you will deposit your vote in box number five on 25 February.

Brothers from Somoto, from Madriz Department, from Esteli, from Nueva Segovia, Nicaraguan brothers: I

invite you to vote on 25 February so that the war in Nicaragua will come to end. Cast your vote in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five!"] so that on 25 February we will vote for peace in Nicaragua by casting our vote in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five."]. So that the land will belong to the peasants, cast your vote in ballot box number [Crowd shouts: "Five."]. So that the workers will have the freedom to organize themselves, the freedom to struggle, we must then cast our vote in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five."].

Between Christianity and revolution [Crowd chants with Ortega: "There is no contradiction."], when we cast our vote in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five."]. So that we will have an authentic national reconciliation in Nicaragua, everyone must cast their votes in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five"]. For the unity of all Nicaragua, for the unity of the people, cast your votes in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five."].

For the blood of our heroes and martyrs, for the blood of those who fell, cast your votes in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five."]. With the strength and spirit of Carlos Fonseca, with the strength and spirit of German Pomares, with the strength and spirit of Camilo Ortega, with the strength and spirit of our heroes and martyrs, everyone on 25 February in box number [Crowd shouts: "Five."]. With the strength and spirit of Sandino, everyone in Somoto, everyone in Madriz Department, everyone in Las Segovias Department, everyone in Esteli Department, everyone in Nicaragua will cast their votes in box number [crowd shouts: "Five."].

On the 25th [Crowd shouts: "Number five," and then Ortega and crowd repeat "on the 25th" and "number five" three more times]

Let's defend the labor rights of the peasants on the 25th. [Crowd responds "with number five" to this and following five Ortega remarks] Let's defend the rights of the people of Somoto on the 25th. Let's defend the future of the children from Somoto on the 25th. Let's defend the rights of all Nicaraguans on the 25th. On the 25th. On the 25th.

Everything will be better! [Ortega and crowd chant preceding slogan together 12 times] Because the people of Somoto have already decided this, because the people of Madriz Department have already decided this, because the people of Nicaragua so demand it.

Free fatherland! [Crowd answers: "Or death!"] We won, we won, we won! Long live Madriz Department, long live Somoto, long live Somoto, long live Sandino! [Crowd shouts: "Long live!" to the four preceding remarks by Ortega] [applause, cheers]

Arce on Meeting With OAS Secretary General

PA0302011990 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 1 Feb 90 p 8

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce, legal representative of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], has said that the Sandinist government would be happy to have the OAS and the United Nations place an observer at each polling place, because the Sandinist government wants authoritative witnesses to silence the United States and its local representatives in this electoral campaign.

The revolutionary leader made this comment in reference to the possibility of increasing the number of observers of the Nicaraguan elections, a topic that was discussed for almost 1 hour in the FSLN's campaign headquarters yesterday afternoon.

Arce said that if the OAS wants to increase the number of its observers, the government and the FSLN would be happy to oblige. He added that the ruling party would even be willing to have the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] extend the deadline for registering poll watchers until 24 February, or until 0400 on 25 February, if the CSE could do this.

The deadline set by the CSE for registering poll watchers is 8 February. Baena Soares had questioned whether the opposition would be able to come up with the required number by that date.

Commenting on his talks with Baena Soares, the Sandinist leader said that the FSLN is also prepared to establish more vote-counting boards if necessary to speed up the electoral process. However, the problem would be whether the opposition could come up with the required people.

Arce said that the government and the FSLN would have greater peace of mind if the two international organizations assign more observers because, he said, the OAS and the United Nations are here, after all, because the Sandinist government invited them.

Arce also said that this is the FSLN party's first contact with Baena Soares. He said he resolved some of Baena Soares' concerns about seeing that the electoral process is carried out as normally and efficiently as possible. Arce expressed to Baena Soares the determination of the FSLN and the government to invalidate all the arguments of the UNO and the U.S. Government, which insist on denying the honesty of the elections.

Arce said that in his talks with Baena Soares, he again brought up the topic of the U.S. funds for UNO, stating that over $9 million entered the country last year for that organization. He explained to the OAS that, as far as the funds are concerned, the United States acted dishonestly to avoid giving half to the electoral process.

He recalled that they invented the IPCE [Institute for Electoral Promotion and Instructions], to which they gave $1.8 million, $500,000 to the CUS [Confederation for Trade Union Unity], supposedly to train poll watchers; and $260,000 to the Civic Way. All these were used to circumvent the rules so that out of the $9 million only $1.9 million was paid into the democracy fund.

He compared the U.S. and UNO campaign maneuvers with the FSLN's and the government's flexibility. He also told the UN Secretary General of IPCE's illegality, an organization that has not requested legal status.

On the subject of the violence caused by the contras in the rural areas of Regions 6, 1, and 5, Commander Arce said that he asked Baena Soares, as an observer, as UN secretary general, and as CIAV head, to take the necessary steps so that the counterrevolution halts its criminal activities and permits peaceful elections.

Arce criticizes the contras for increasing their activity, forcing the peasants to support the UNO in northern Camoapa and in Pastasma, where the opposition coalition candidates then turn out to carry out their propaganda activities. He suggested that if they want to campaign for UNO they should lay down their arms.

Regarding the television airtime used by the opposition, he said that they spend 10 hours and 42 minutes every week attacking the government and purchase 189 minutes each week of radio time between the nine parties, which on 13 radio stations amounts to 3 hours and 9 minutes each week.

Further on Arce Meeting With Baena Soares

PA0302120890 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Feb 90 pp 1, 6

[All figures as published]

[Text] Bayardo Arce, commander of the revolution and campaign chief of the FSLN [Sandinist National Libertion Front], charged yesterday that the counterrevolution is forcing peasants to attend UNO [National Opposition Union] campaign meetings in northern Campoapa (Boaco Department) and in the Pantasma area (Matagalpa Department). The Sandinist leader made these statements after meeting with OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soareas, who yesterday completed his 2d day of activities as election observer.

The FSLN asked Baena Soares, as OAS secretary general and member of the International Support and Verification Commission, to try to get the contras to stop their activities and allow the elections to proceed in peace. The OAS official, who is meeting today with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, met yesterday with Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Supreme Electoral Tribunal authorities, and UNO's "political council."

Commander Arce explained things to Mr. Baena Soares so that at the time of drafting the report on the development of the electoral process, Baena Soares can make it clear that the FSLN and the government feel that the United States has been using sophisticated excuses to try to deny the quality, honesty, and purity of the elections. He also informed the OAS official about preparations being made so that the elections proceed normally on 25 February.

Bayardo Arce described a UNO proposal to have the vote counting done in public as "dumb." He said neither Mr. Baena Soares, nor the UN permanent monitoring commission, nor Mr. Jimmy Carter in his recent visit to the country have made that request.

He said that for the first time the FSLN "concurs" with the UNO on something, that is, The UNO candidate's request yesterday for Mr Baena Soares to increase the number of election observers to 400. On the alleged intimidation of UNO representatives by Interior Ministry authorities, Arce said former President Carter arrived last week, "hastily saying that 60 percent of the representatives were intimidated." The FSLN asked the OAS for the report Carter mentioned, but it states that 36 complaints were filed, 13 of which mentioned intimidation. Sixty percent of 36 is 20, but only 4 persons were fully identified.

Bayardo Arce said that if one considers that there are 4,300 polling places, and that each polling place has one representative and one alternate, the total number of representatives is 8,600. If four persons were intimidated, that figure represents just 0.02 percent of the total.

"A serious organization would not dare to say that there is a policy of intimidation," Arce stressed, adding that the Interior Ministry will have to answer for all four cases.

Regarding the alleged arrival of Soviet helicopters in Nicaragua, the Sandinist leader said Nicaragua will continue acquiring the helicopters and weapons it deems necessary so long as the U.S. policy of aggression continues.

In addition, he dismissed a charge published in the U.S. ultraright-wing newspaper THE WASHINGTON TIMES that "enclaves" are being prepared in Punta Huete to launch surface-to-air missiles, because that newspaper belongs to the "Moon Sect," which specializes in spreadig lies against the noble causes of the world. He urged the firm Borge and Associates to find out if the results of a recent poll that gave the UNO the lead in the elections are true.

Arce Notes U.S. Aid to Contras No Longer Valid

PA0402202190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The U.S. no longer has an excuse to aid the contras' demobilization given President Ortega's decision to free Somozists guards and contras after winning the elections, Commander Bayardo Arce said this weekend when referring to one of the issues used by the Bush administration to continue supporting the contra forces. After a meeting with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Bayardo said that he told Carter about his party's concern for the assassinations carried out by the contras, thus sabotaging the electoral process. Arce said the government allowed the UNO [National Opposition

Union] directorate board members to remove the 90 custom vehicles they had purchased with U.S.funds. He added that the White House no longer has an excuse for the contra's existence.

[Begin Arce recording] We have insisted that once the contras are demoblized we will grant amnesty to approximately 1,000 contra prisoners and former Somozist guards. The United States is using this as an excuse for not contributing to the contras' demobilization. President Ortega's logic, which is very wise, is that on 25 February, when the revolutionary process is reaffirmed through the Sandinist National Libertation Front (FSLN) victory, he would immediately grant amnesty. The question is, what other excuse does the United States intend to use for not complying with contras' demobilization? The FSLN will have won; there will be no more prisoners; then what? [end recording]

OAS Official Reports on Results of Visit

PA0202190690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1648 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 2 Feb (ACAN - EFE)—OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares today said that he was "satisfied with what he has seen" of the Nicaraguan electoral process that will culminate with the 25 February elections.

Before leaving Managua for Costa Rica, where he will observe that country's elections on 4 February, Baena Soares held a news conference in which he explained the results of his 3-day visit to Nicaragua, which included a meeting with President Daniel Ortega on the night of 1 February.

The Brazilian diplomat arrived in Managua on 30 January and during his stay he met with presidential candidates—including Sandinist Daniel Ortega and Violeta Chamorro, from the most important opposition coalition—the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE), and international observers of the Nicaraguan electoral process.

The OAS secretary general explained that the opposition brought up some complaints. However, he did not go into them, stating that "we are looking for a way to take the opposition's suggestions and concerns to the CSE, always with the intention of improving the electoral process."

Regarding the National Opposition Union's [UNO] charges about an alleged "fraud" being prepared by the Sandinists, Baena Soares replied that the OAS "will check into this complaint."

UNO charged last week that the Sandinist government is allegedly planning to commit electoral fraud in the February elections.

The opposition leaders base their charges on the intimidation and threats against some of their party poll watchers and on the Sandinists' excessive use of the media.

Regarding this charge, the CSE informed Baena Soares on 1 February that television air time for the opposition parties will be increased.

According to the Nicaraguan press, Baena Soares described the measures adopted by the CSE as "very important."

In responding to ACAN-EFE questions, the OAS secretary general said he will return to Nicaragua on 18 February so he can be present before and after the elections.

Baena Soares said the OAS mission will remain in this country with a small number of observers until 25 April, the date on which the Nicaraguan president-elect will take office.

To date, the OAS has 110 observers, but this number will increase to 400 the day of the voting, 25 February.

The South American diplomat also announced that he will issue his fourth report on the Nicaraguan electoral process in Washington next week. He said that the day after the elections he will issue a "reaction" on the results of the elections.

Baena Soares said the "more extensive OAS report" will "take longer" but the "reaction will be issued the day after the voting."

Baena Soares, who had a full agenda in Managua, was present on 26 February at a vote receiving board to observe a mock registration, voting, and vote counting process.

FSLN Willing To Extend Poll Watcher Deadline

PA0302042290 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Commander Bayardo Arce has announced that the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] is willing to accept an extension to 24 February of the deadline given for the registration of party poll watchers. He made the announcement after meeting with OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares.

Following his meeting with Baena Soares, Commander Arce said that he ratified that the FSLN is willing to give all the necessary guarantees for the 25 February elections.

[Begin Arce recording, in progress] ...to eliminate all the excuses, no matter how sophisticated, that the United States and its party here, UNO [National Opposition Union], have been using in an attempt to deny the quality, honesty, and purity of these elections. [end recording]

Another subject analyzed during the meeting was the use of electronic means in the election campaign, and the problem caused by the funds sent by the [U.S.] Congress to the opposition, mainly to the UNO.

[Begin Arce recording] For example, we mentioned again the problem created by the funds, the famous U.S. funds, the public funds. I insist that not only the $9 million that was recently approved has been sent here. From the NED [National Endowment for Democracy] alone, $3.5 million entered in 1989 after the electoral process had already begun following the meeting of Central American presidents in San Salvador [end recording]

OAS Secretary General Baena Soares met with Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto. In the morning, he met with members of the UNO Political Council. He will meet with President Daniel Ortega tomorrow and will attend a simulated election.

OAS To Give Preliminary Election Results 25 Feb

PA0302032690 Paris AFP in Spanish 2128 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 2 Feb (AFP)—The OAS, which is monitoring the Nicaraguan electoral process, will give its first estimates on the election results on the same day the voting takes place, OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares announced today.

Before leaving Managua after a 3-day visit, Baena said that the OAS is prepared to give "at least a reaction" on 25 February, the day the elections will be held. The final report however, will take longer.

Concerning his assessment of the electoral process after his visit to Nicaragua, Baena said he had "a good impression of the organization efforts," by the Supreme Electoral Council.

The OAS will have 400 observers in Nicaragua during election week and will make its own vote count on election day.

Baena reported that next week he will present at the OAS headquarters in Washington his fourth report on the development of the electoral process, which will contain his observations, as well as the claims presented by the various parties during his visit.

Baena, ONUVEN Observe Voting Exercise

PA0402201990 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Joao Baena Soares, secretary general of the Organization of American States [OAS] has watched the second trial run of the balloting organized by the Regional Electoral Council. The exercise, held at the Alecio Blandon Normal School, was also witnessed by ONUVEN [United Nations Mission for Verification of Elections in Nicaragua] observers.

After supervising the exercise, Baena Soares expressed his concerns to Oscar Melendez, member of the regional council. During the balloting, the electoral police will give priority to the elderly, the handicapped, and pregnant women. Blind persons will be accompanied by someone they trust.

Borge on Contra Leaders Joining Civilian Life

PA0402044790 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Nicaraguan Commander Tomas Borge has reported that major contra leaders have made contact with Interior Ministry and Sandinist People's Army chiefs to lay down their weapons and rejoin civilian life. He made the announcement during a ceremony with employees of the national financial system.

[Begin Borge recording] Behaving seriously and responsibly, we are taking steps to fulfill the wish that the contras disband. It is said they should go to Honduras. I would say they can demobilize here in Nicaragua. But whether they go to Honduras, or demobilize, or come to some area in the country to rejoin normal life, the fact remains that in the next week major contra sectors will forsake their weapons to rejoin civilian and normal life in the country. [end recording]

The Sandinist leader commented at length on similar cases of leaders laying down their weapons and joining political life. However, that does not mean the people will forget the more than 100,000 heroes and martyrs the counterrevolution is responsible for, he noted. Commander Borge rebuffed LA PRENSA's distorted polls, saying that anyone can conduct a survey with previously selected people. During the ceremony, the leader bestowed the 10th Anniversary Order on Marcelo Mayorga, an official of the country's financial system.

CSE Announces Parties To Have More TV Time

PA0202165490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 2 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaragua's Supreme Electoral Council (CSE), which is supervising the elections in this country, has announced that beginning today, more airtime will be allotted for party campaigning on Sandinist television stations.

CSE President Mariano Fiallos said that beginning on Monday, 5 February, the "Elections 90" program that is aired on television will become a daily debate program until 21 February, the last day of the electoral campaign that is to culminate in elections on 25 February.

Moreover, Fiallos said that with 24 [as received] days remaining before the elections, the parties will be able to contract to air 30-second campaign messages during Nicaraguan audiences' prime viewing time.

The CSE president made the announcement last night, after a meeting with OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, who today is ending his second visit to this country in his capacity as an observer of the Nicaraguan elections.

The "Elections 90" program was formerly aired 3 times a week, but beginning on Monday, it will be aired daily and will last for 1 hour.

Party leaders will participate in accordance with a schedule that was set by having lots drawn by the nine political organizations and 14-party alliance that are vying to govern Nicaragua.

It was also reported that the various parties and alliances will hold three debates on 24 February, before the electoral campaign ends.

Government Releases Campaign Funds to IPCE

PA0302214890 Paris AFP in Spanish 0524 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 2 Feb (AFP)—Silviano Matamoros, president of the Institute for Electoral Promotion and Instruction (IPCE), which is linked to the Nicaraguan opposition, reported today that the institute has begun receiving the funds donated by the U.S. Congress for the training of party poll representatives.

The IPCE is supposed to receive $1.48 million of the U.S. assistance of $9 million for the Nicaraguan elections.

Up until now, delivery of the funds had been blocked by the authorities, who claimed that the IPCE did not have any legal status to warrant using these funds.

However, thanks to a "political compromise" promoted by former U.S. President James Carter with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (CSE) during his visit to Nicaragua last month, this obstacle was finally removed, the source said.

Matamoros said that he received $230,000 on Wednesday. This is in addition to the initial $200,000 released by the Central Bank as a payment against sums deposited in Managua by means of checks.

According to the agreement, the use of the funds is subject to supervision by the CSE, which must make certain that they are not used to finance the opposition's campaign.

Matamoros asserted that the assistance given to the IPCE "is not related" to the $1.8 million donated by the United States to the National Opposition Union (UNO).

According to Nicaraguan law, UNO must deliver an amount proportional to the amount donated to a "fund for democracy" administered by the CSE, but the IPCE is not subject to the restrictions because of its official status as an "independent organization."

Matamoros explained that the IPCE intends "to seek a more fluid development" of the electoral process, to carry out verification tasks, and to train the party poll representatives for the elections of 25 February.

Presidential Candidates Demand Share of Funds

PA0402201790 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Feb 90, pp 1, 6

[Text] On 31 January two opposition presidential candidates demanded their share of the money that will be given to IPCE [Institute for Electoral Promotion and Instruction] by the U.S. Government, to train their electoral supervisers. Through former President Jimmy Carter's efforts, these funds are to be managed by the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE].

Erick Ramirez, the Social Christian Alliance candidate, and Eduardo Molina, the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua candidate, have requested that the money be distributed thus: "one part for the party or organization for whom it was originally intended and the other part for the remaining political parties."

Molina said his party (Democratic Conservatives) believes that the Fund for Democracy is not being used correctly, as money has only been given to UNO [National Opposition Union], while the rest of the parties have to wait for a CSE disposition.

He added that his party will present a proposal for "a true interpretation of the law" to be made at the National Assembly, so that money may be given to other political parties, too. Molina said, "If it is true that CSE has a right to this fund, it is also true that the independent political parties, participating in this democratic process, also have a right to receive part of this money."

Article 124 of the Electoral Law establishes that the Fund For Democracy, created to receive the donations that are sent to parties, be divided in the following manner: 50 percent for the party or organization that was given the donation and the other 50 percent to the CSE.

The green party candidate [not further identified] added that "the spirit of the legislators, when we made the law, was that all parties would benefit from the Fund for Democracy money."

He commented on the CSE's decision to monitor the use of the IPCE funds despite the fact that this organization suupposedly does not belong to any party. He said "although this is something that requires flexibility, the IPCE should have presented its request to attain legal status at the National Assembly first; it did not do this."

"Nevertheless, he added, the National Assembly is willing to give it a legal status as it does not deny a legal status to anybody."

Cardinal Obando Interviewed on Election Process

PA0202234190 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Interview with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo by Javier Reyes on 1 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reyes] We are just 25 days away from the elections, or rather, in the final stretch of the electoral process in Nicaragua and, parallel to what we describe as the electoral process, there is a process that Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has described as national reconciliation. It has actually been going on one way or another. He met a few days ago with President Daniel Ortega and the entire Episcopal Conference.

Good evening, Cardinal. The initial steps have been taken following the announcement. With 25 days left, what is your opinion of the reconciliation process and the electoral process? What is your view of these matters, which are very closely related?

[Obando] It has been said that steps have been taken in this regard. As we get closer to 25 February, when our people must express their views through their votes, I think it is necessary that we increase our efforts to establish a climate of fraternity, peace, and tranquillity. I believe steps have been taken toward this end, but I think that we can continue to make progress. I talked with President Ortega on 26 January, when he was here in my office and this week on 29 January (?we) met at the (?house) of the Episcopal Conference. He said that he wanted a climate of peace and tranquillity to be created, and I think that all of us must work toward it. Peace depends not on a single man, but on all Nicaraguans. I hope we will devote ourselves to this with goodwill, moderating our language. He said that strong words were being used, including on Radio Catolica. I believe that the language has to be toned down by both the official and the opposition media. Of course, if Radio Catolica is using aggressive language, we must look into this because it will have to be toned down.

[Reyes] What yardstick will you use to judge the results of the elections? What basis will you use to render judgment afterwards?

[Obando] Before rendering judgment, we must, as churchmen, meet at the level of the church or Episcopal Conference and make an analysis to be able to arrive at a thought out decision in the event we have to issue an opinion. This has to be done very maturely, without improvisation. We must listen to what our priests, parishioners, and bishops of various places have to say. I think that things have to be taken seriously.

[Reyes] By the way, Cardinal, some media have suggested that President Ortega is using you for electoral purposes. Do you really think that the pardon and other steps are ways to use you?

[Obando] I should say that it is very difficult to please everyone in our sphere. I have seen some people come here to thank me for interceding on behalf of some prisoners to be released from jail, and some people criticize me for meeting with President Ortega, saying that I had given him a favorable image before the world and that he will probably not keep his word. Others objected, saying that I had not obtained an amnesty, but a pardon. Well, I must say that we do these things with a spirit of faith, trying to help our people.

I have my own personality. You know me. I have 22 years...[changes thought] When I say yes, it means yes, and when I say no it means no. We try to act whenever we think it could render a service to the people. We think that dialogue is necessary. You know that there has been tension at times with the government. However, we have been ready to talk when someone has expressed the wish to talk with us. Of course, the people are very polarized here. If someone sees me leave with Dona Violeta, who comes here, they say: Well, UNO [National Opposition Union] is using Cardinal Obando. If President Ortega comes here, others will say: Our poor cardinal is being manipulated by the government. This has been said by some people, is it not true? When Dona Violeta came here, they said: Dona Violeta is manipulating him. One day [words indistinct] Eli Altamirano is manipulating him, and Altamirano was shown in a photograph holding a crucifix while I am shown holding the hammer and sickle.

[Reyes] He is turning him into a communist, they say.

[Obando] He is turning him into a communist. Today, because I met with Ortega, some people have said—there are reports on this—our poor cardinal, they are manipulating him. However, we try to sow good, and we have our own personalities. I think a Christian has to carry out his prophetic function and speak up when things are not right. We are not infallible, but when something is not right, out of a desire to help, one makes constructive criticism—when we have to talk, we talk.

[Reyes] Cardinal, some things are still pending after the pardon, particularly the Central American agreements—the kidnap victims, the demobilization of the contras. What is your opinion?

[Obando] I was surprised at what I read EL NUEVO DIARIO today. It said: Cardinal Obando has never interceded for the kidnap victims held by the contras. EL NUEVO DIARIO says so today and has said so several times, as have several people. I think that President Ortega himself said on 29 January that Cardinal Obando and the church have interceded for the kidnap victims. Dr. Tinoco [Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco] is a witness that in Washington—where I was a witness—I asked for the floor. A witness is not supposed to speak, but he gave me the floor. I said that for a climate of reconciliation to exist in Nicaragua, it would be advisable that the Nicaraguan Government release the prisoners it is holding. I said: It is also necessary that if the armed resistance is holding kidnap victims—I said it this way because no other words came to mind—it must release them to give peace to the mothers in Nicaragua.

Dr. Tinoco—who I think has a good memory—and the people who were there, know I have interceded. I have insisted to both sides. I have urged the government and the RN [Nicaraguan Resistance] to set the political prisoners free. Of course, we have our limitations. On

the occasions we have talked with the RN, they have said: We are not holding anyone. We have our limitations, but do want peace and fraternity to prevail, and for them to exist there has to be goodwill and willingness on both sides.

[Reyes] In other words, are you again going to ask for the release of kidnap victims? What about the demobilization?

[Obando] The church does not...[changes thought] I do not have a newspaper, newsletter, or powerful printing press. I cannot even get a book I am publishing printed in the small printing press I have because the paper cutter is not operating—it has no light. However, I am using television at this moment, and so this is an appeal. I will continue to insist that if anyone is being held by the RN, that person must be released. I believe it is necessary to know how to forgive, not only 7 times, but 70 times 7. However, you were asking me another question about whether I would continue...

[Reyes, interrupting] About the demobilization...

[Obando] I think the demobilization will follow on its own. If the elections are clean and honest, the RN must demobilize. You can see for yourself that several people have already arrived. I have been told that several people who are former commanders have already arrived in Nicaragua. These people...[changes thought] I think that if the elections are honest, the RN will gradually demobilize, or crumble.

[Reyes] Thank you, Cardinal, for your time. Thank you for being with us.

Obando Dismisses Reliability of Election Polls

PA0302033290 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 29 Jan 90 p 8

[Text] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo commented yesterday on the results of the latest polls conducted by several international companies, saying their reliability depends on who does the sampling.

"If I want the Sandinist National Liberation Front to get 100 percent of the preference vote, I interview 100 of its members and get that 100 percent. If I want the opposition to get 100 percent of the preference vote, I conduct a survey among its members and get that 100 percent," the head of the Nicaraguan Catholic Church said.

Obando talked to several local and foreign reporters at the conclusion of a mass offered at Las Sierritas de Santo Domingo Church, where he met with a delegation of exiled Nicaraguans from Miami that included Carlos Garcia, former leader of a baseball federation before the triumph of the revolution.

On the proposal by Daniel Ortega Saavedra to release all former guardsmen and inmates serving time for counterrevolutionary activities, Obando said that the president brought up the subject the day they met.

According to the cardinal, the initial proposal was that the government would release all those held for counterrevolutionary activities, but he told Ortega that it would be advisable to include 39 former national guardsmen to foster a climate of peace and reconciliation.

Obando said that if the government releases the inmates before the elections, it would be nice, and recalled that the National Reconciliation Commission, which he chairs, had swayed the government to decree an amnesty as soon as possible. However, during a dialogue between the government and the political parties, they agreed to make the release contingent upon the demobilization of the contras in Honduras. The cardinal regretted the political party's stand.

The cardinal gave the names of the priests the government will allow to return to the country. Their names are: Father Benito Laplant, who was the San Marcos Parish priest; Father Merino and Father Landaverde, both from the Juigalpa Archdiocese; and Father Morataya, who worked at Masaya's Salesian School.

Deputy Alfaro Comments on Upcoming Elections

PA0202222990 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1848 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Democratic Conservative Deputy Gerardo Alfaro has stated that economic and political consultation and coordination following the elections is necessary for the well-being of the people, and no political force should be excluded.

As is public knowledge, UNO [National Opposition Union] vice presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy Reyes flatly stated yesterday that, at this stage of the game, it is too late to think of any consultation or coordination, and that this was a maneuver by the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. Godoy Reyes also said that it was not feasible for the Sandinist government to abolish the Patriotic Military Service [SMP], as part of an electoral strategy.

For his part, Democratic Conservative Deputy Gerardo Alfaro says that the SMP is necessary for a country like Nicaragua, and that nearly all countries of the world have a similar service.

[Begin recording] [Alfaro] As to whether there will be consultation and coordination, I believe there should be because the current Ortega government must seek this consultation and coordination as it is the only solution to the socioeconomic problems of the country. There must also be pluralist political participation. Thus, I believe there will be consultation and coordination, because it is the only way in which all political sectors of the country can participate in government work. In this manner, and with the help of all Nicaraguan politicians, the country will be able to emerge from its economic difficulties.

Concerning the SMP, my personal opinion is—and I believe all Nicaraguans will agree—that the FSLN

cannot and should not abolish the SMP. Military service is a fact in all Latin American and European countries. All citizens have a duty and a right to participate in military training. I do not believe the FSLN will make the mistake of abolishing the SMP merely to satisfy the demands of people like the members of UNO or other political parties who dislike the issue.

I understand perfectly well that the SMP must be reorganized. In other words, the National Assembly might discuss a draft bill in which military service could be reorganized. Naturally, the war situation forced the Sandinists to recruit the boys. If it had not been for this, there would not have been any forceful—but patriotic—recruitment, and the FSLN would not have achieved victory.

[Reporter] On another subject, Mr. Alfaro, the U.S. media is taking it for granted that the FSLN will win the elections, while UNO points out that it has already won the elections. I would like to hear your opinion on this.

In addition, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has said that the United States is going to establish relations with Nicaragua, as long as Nicaragua respects and holds free elections in this country. Any comments on this?

[Alfaro] There is nothing to say, and I cannot give you any opinion on this. The gringos themselves are saying it. I am of the opinion that Nicaragua should prepare itself—and it is prepared—because, first of all, the government party will win the elections. Second, the Nicaraguan Government has never gone left politically as the gringos claim. This is a democratic government, and the Americans must respect the decision of the Nicaraguan people, because in this country there are going to be clean and honest elections.

We Nicaraguans will vouch for the elections. On my part, if I had observed there was any room for doubt, I would have already shouted that the FSLN was committing fraud. However, since there has been no fraud, I cannot say there is any. The gringos realize that their warmongering efforts were unsuccessful, therefore they now realize that democracy is the solution. In this manner, the U.S. Government will clear itself of so many moral and human demands of the Nicaraguan people. The U.S. Government then clears itself, and the Nicaraguan people accept the U.S. Government.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Mr. Gerardo Alfaro. [end recording]

First Former Contra Registers To Vote

PA0302204790 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The first contra to register to vote on 25 February has done so in Esteli Department. Former counterrevolutionary Alfredo Mairena Picado registered on 1 February in Region 1 to participate in the upcoming elections. Mairena Picado, who accepted the amnesty decree issued on 8 January, had for many years belonged to the Pino 1, Diriangen, Pedro Joaquin Gonzalez, and Jorge Salazar contra task forces. The former rebel, who went to the Las Segovia's CSE [Supreme Electoral Council] building accompanied by OAS observer Arturo Garzon and Carlos Dos Santos of ONUVEN [UN Observer Mission for Verification of Elections in Nicaragua], received civic identification booklet number, 0938895, from local CSE President Miguel Cordoba. Mairena Picado was placed on a special list for people who had returned to Nicaragua as former rebels. Mairena Picado said that he laid down his weapons to fight in the civic arena.

27 Jan Press Review on Election Campaign

PA0202144090

[Editorial Report] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] newspaper BARRICADA, on pages 1 and 5, carries a report on a 26 January demonstration held by Nicaraguan owners of means of transportation. The report describes the demonstration as "a march of owners of means of transportation never before registered in Nicaraguan history." The report then details a subsequent meeting between the taxi and bus owners and FSLN presidential candidate Daniel Ortega in Managua. The report concludes by saying that Rafael Larios, a representative of the transportation sector, told Ortega that last July "some blond guys from the U.S. Embassy and some UNO [National Opposition Union] politicians had offered them money to finance a general transportation strike in Nicaragua."

On pages 1 and 5, BARRICADA carries a report on an election rally presided over by FSLN vice presidential candidate Sergio Ramirez in the mountains of Cua-Bocay, Jinotega Department, on 26 January, where "over 5,000 peasants gathered to confirm their support for the Sandinist candidates." The report states that Ramirez said the contras had planned to ambush his motorcade in Cua-Bocay, but that "they did not dare carry out their plan."

BARRICADA also publishes an editorial on page 3 holding UNO partly responsible for the recent murder of FSLN poll representative Concepcion Santeliz in Somoto. The BARRICADA editorial describes Santeliz' murder as "a crude and painful expression of electoral terrorism against the FSLN." The editorial concludes by saying that UNO has its share of responsibility in the murder, because it has refused to demand the demobilization of the contra movement, "whose members have been accused of murdering Santeliz."

On page 4, BARRICADA carries a report on the 26 January meeting of the Democracy and Electoral Systems International Conference held in Nicaragua. The report states that the participants disccused the "constant U.S. Government interference in the current Nicaraguan election process." The report adds that the participants in the conference said the U.S. Government "supports groups of armed counterrevolutionaries" and "endangers the progress of the Nicaraguan people."

On page 5, BARRICADA carries a report on a rally conducted by Daniel Ortega in the Managua neighborhoods of Waspan, Villa San Jacinto, and Villa Revolucion on 26 January in which "over 20,000 people participated."

The government newspaper EL NUEVO DIARIO, on pages 1 and 8, publishes the text of a 26 January note written by Xavier Chamorro Cardenal, chief editor. In the note, Chamorro refuses to recognize the authority of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] reprimand of the newspaper and of the CSE official who sent the reprimand to the paper for issuing a publication that violates the Nicaraguan media law. The note urges the CSE official to prove he has authority to handle the case.

The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, on pages 1 and 8, carries a report by Roger Suarez Martinez stating that the members of the Reynoso Lanuza family, who live in Acoyapa, Chontales Department, and who support the Nicaraguan opposition, have been recently intimidated, threatened, and attacked by state security and FSLN members. The report concludes with Mr. Rodolfo Reynoso's statement that the "state security is after us simply because we are not Sandinists and because we now support UNO."

Finally, LA PRENSA carries a 600-word editorial on pages 1 and 8 criticizing President Ortega's announcement that he will release the Nicaraguan political prisoners after he wins the 25 February elections. The editorial says Ortega "has admitted that the political prisoners are his hostages." LA PRENSA describes Ortega's announcement as an attempt to "blackmail" all those who want the prisoners released. The editorial concludes that "Ortega does not hesitate in using inhuman tactics to obtain votes."

Managua Press Election Review for 28 January

PA0202195890

[Editorial Report] BARRICADA, organ of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, continues to report on the activities of FSLN candidates. In a report on pages 1 and 5 on a campaign rally held by President Daniel Ortega on 27 January in Malpaisillo, described as a primarily rural municipality, the paper says that there was a "repeat of the impressive human tides" with which Ortega has been met on all his tours. It says the "human tide" completely filled the 3-km stretch of road between the town and the highway. It says that foreign observers, including some from the "Yankee embassy," were surprised at the "extraordinary" support shown by a rural town, and at the "great ability to communicate with the people that President Ortega has developed in the past few months."

The report quotes Ortega as saying at the rally that although the opposition, the contras, and the Yankees have spent the last 10 years destroying what the Sandinists have built, "the economy has not collapsed, because whatever they have destroyed, we have rebuilt from the ashes...."

The same report notes that before going to Malpaisillo, Ortega stopped at Corinto, where he met with "thousands" of people, promising them to increase exports to stimulate more economic activity in the area.

The same issue of BARRICADA also carries several reports on activities of the National Opposition Union, UNO. On page 1, it reports that UNO had "refused" to pay customs duties on 93 vehicles that it recently purchased for the electoral campaign, "despite the millions of dollars that it has received from the U.S. Government." The report adds that a formal UNO request for a 30-day grace period for the vehicles to be allowed to circulate without payment of the duty was rejected by the director of customs.

On page 4, BARRICADA reports that there is friction within the UNO ranks in Masaya, because "many" municipal delegates had learned that while they were not being paid, other people were lining their pockets. The report names Salvador Suarez Miranda, UNO departmental representative, as being questioned by members of his party because "he alone is benefiting from the dollars received from the United States," while the party headquarters is falling into ruin, and rent on the building has not been paid since September. It says the UNO municipal delegate in Niquinohomo was "unjustly" dismissed because he kept insisting that Suarez handle the funds properly.

On page 4, the paper carries the headline "Child Killed After Being Tortured," with the subtitle "Armed Members of UNO Continue Murdering." The attached report from Juigalpa by Tatiana Rothschuh states that "as part of their campaign of intimidation to win supporters," counterrevolutionaries killed an 11-year-old child and his 27-year-old uncle "for the crime of being members of Sandinist families." The report cites an eyewitness, who describes in detail how the child was tortured before being killed and says that the murderers left papers indicating that they were UNO activists.

Managua Press Election Review for 29 January

PA0302041990

[Editorial Report] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] newspaper BARRICADA on pages 3 and 4 carries a report on what it terms a "failed" National Opposition Union [UNO] rally in Jinotepe on 28 January. The report says that bus drivers who brought UNO followers to the rally were paid and provided with gas to transport the opposition supporters to the event. It says the square where the rally was held was half empty and that the UNO leaders' speeches could hardly be heard by those who attended the rally.

The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, however, carries a front-page report on the 28 January UNO rally in Jinotepe, which says that "thousands of people" participated in the rally, including former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. According to LA PRENSA, "the residents of Jinotepe, Catarina, Nandasmo, Esteli, and Nindiri

asked Carter "to be fair" in carrying out his job as election observer. The report includes part of the speech delivered at the event by Violeta Chamorro, who is quoted as saying: "My government will establish and guarantee peace. It will achieve reconciliation among all Nicaraguans..." and there will be "no compulsory military service under my government."

On page 6, BARRICADA carries a report on an FSLN rally led by vice-presidential candidate Sergio Ramirez in Bluefields on 27 January. The report notes that "over 20,000 Bluefield residents welcomed Ramirez last weekend." The report says that during his speech at the rally, Ramirez said: "After 25 February, the international observers will have to go up to the U.S. President and tell him: 'Mr. Bush, you were wrong. The FSLN won the elections cleanly'." The report further quotes Ramirez as saying that, after the elections, "President Bush will have no other choice than to stop his war against us and to recognize the existence of the revolution."

Also on page 6, BARRICADA carries a report on an UNO rally in Esteli at which "the 5,000 people who attended the rally" were taken to the event in buses. The report says that the people of Esteli "turned their backs on the UNO," and that "presidential candidate Barrios found marked indifference among the Esteli population."

On page 7, BARRICADA carries a report on FSLN complaints of election violence "promoted by UNO activists." According the report, the FLSN claims that the UNO legal representatives showed up too late for a meeting called by the Regional Electoral Council to try to solve the election violence problem.

Also on page 7, BARRICADA carries a report on FSLN political secretaries accusing UNO activists of "provoking, threatening, and depriving citizens of their voter identification cards" in Juigalpa.

A report on page 16 of the Managua newspaper EL NUEVO DIARIO reports on a rally led by UNO presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro in the Carazo and Masaya regions on 28 January. The report says that there were "barely 4,000 people" at the rally and that "Violeta Barrios once again promised to solve" the country's problems in "100 days." The report adds that "some people went to the rally to meet Violeta; others went because they wanted to see what Jimmy Carter looks like; and still others went because it was an occasion to drink." The report concludes saying that "Carter stayed at the rally for 5 minutes, at the most, and then left without even saying good-bye."

On page 16, LA PRENSA carries a report on UNO activist Leonardo Cajina Monterrey, who it reports was shot and wounded while campaigning for the UNO in a Managua neighborhood. The report adds that Cajina was shot by Sandinist Defense Committee member Juan Diego Mejia.

Editorial Scores UNO's 'False Claim,' 'Alibis'

PA0402040490 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Jan 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Who Gets The IPCE Dollars?"]

[Text] Antonio Lacayo, campaign manager of the pro-U.S. coalition, kept silent for 3 days regarding the charges made on 19 January by Commander Bayardo Arce about the UNO's [National Opposition Union] false claim of "lack of funds" and its aim to concoct alibis to withdraw from the campaign. Yesterday, Lacayo finally tried to reply. All he did, however, was to prove Arce and the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] are right.

Lacayo said in a radio newscast that as long as the IPCE [Institute For Electoral Promotion and Instruction] does not get the $1.6 million approved by the U.S. Congress, the UNO will not recognize the FSLN's victory. Even Lacayo regards the FSLN victory as a foregone conclusion. To justify his statement, Lacayo claimed that without those funds the UNO would not have a guarantee of correct supervision of the voting process.

Lacayo deliberately fails to mention that the so-called IPCE has not acquired its legal status to be able to receive funds. Therefore, the government can not be accused of obstructing the process. Besides, there are other more serious flaws in his reasoning that even show a violation of U.S. laws, confirming that the IPCE was conceived as a smokescreen to transfer illegal funds to the UNO.

In the first place, Lacayo talks about the IPCE as if it were an UNO party agency to get votes and train its activists. U.S. law strictly defines the IPCE functions "as strengthening the democratic process," completely separate from vote-getting activities by one party or the other. According to this definition—not by Lacayo, but the U.S. Congress—the UNO has no prerogatives to appropriate IPCE funds. If this should happen, Congress should automatically suspend those disbursements.

Lacayo's reasoning, that without the IPCE funds the UNO could not oversee the voting process, is all the more false because its own poll-watchers have already been duly trained by the Supreme Electoral Council. The Council's training was praised by UNO National Comptroller Humberto Dona.

Even if the IPCE's function were to provide funds for training the electoral poll-watchers, why should the UNO be its exclusive beneficiary? Should not the IPCE funds be equally accessible to poll-watchers from other parties, or at least to the other seven opposition parties?

These questions should be answered by the Supreme Electoral Council, whose authority and credibility are way beyond the UNO's disrepute. However, we cannot tolerate, under any circumstances, that the UNO would seek to establish conditions to not recognize the FSLN's victory at the polls.

Anyway, that is why we have international observers, whose decision the UNO has promised to heed.

Paper Reports Arrival of Soviet Helicopters

PA0402013890 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Feb 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] Corinto—In addition to six huge crates containing helicopters, Soviet sailors also unloaded objects that looked like light tanks covered with heavy canvas, and a large number of heavy crates, apparently containing ammunition, going by their dimensions.

The shipment came from Leningrad and is the second one in 1990 that has arrived for the Sandinist government. This time the shipment was brought in by the Soviet "roll on" [preceding word in English] steamer "Harry Pollitt" No. 22, piloted by Captain Evegui Kozhevnikov and 39 crew members. The cargo was handled through the Agencia Naviera Baltica in Corinto.

The sailors unloaded the equipment in the early morning hours of Saturday to Sunday, while the port was in darkness because of a blackout.

Envoy Urges U.S. To Withdraw Panama Troops

PA0302144490 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Nicaragua has insisted that the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva demand that the U.S. Government withdraw their troops from Panama and allow an economic, political, and social regime to be established there through self-determination and without a Yankee presence.

Gustavo Adolfo Vargas, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, has said that the United States, which claims to respect international laws, should comply with this request and, in addition, allow the Nicaraguan people to freely choose their own path, which they are entitled to do without question.

Number of Political Prisoners Causes Controversy

PA0402194090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1810 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 4 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The announcement issued by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega regarding the release of "all" political prisoners, has caused a controversy among human rights organizations on the true number of prisoners, for ideological reasons.

During a speech to the diplomatic corps accredited to Nicaragua, President Ortega has said that the number of prisoners to be released 5-15 February would be 1,090.

Lino Hernandez, executive secretary of the opposition Permanent Commission for the Defense of Human Rights (CPDH), said in Rome on 1 February that the number of political prisoners in Nicaragua is 4,500 and not only 1,200 as claimed by the Sandinist Government."

The Nicaraguan Association for Human Rights, also of the opposition and which is led by Marta Patricia Baltodano, added that the list of Nicaraguan prisoners is actually 4,628.

According to Baltodano, the list of prisoners that her association has "was prepared using modern methods," which she did not specify.

Also, the Commission to Promote and Protect Human Rights (CPPDH), which is pro-government, has also offered its version of the issue "to prevent the manipulation concerning the number (of prisoners) by interested sectors, which have already launched a slanderous campaign."

CPPDH spokesmen have reported that the organization has issued a favorable ruling concerning the proposal to release 1,186 prisoners. The proposal will be presented by President Ortega next week at the Nicaraguan National Assembly.

The presidential initiative will favor people involved in armed actions against the Nicaraguan regime, and 39 former high-ranking Somozists of the now extinct Nicaraguan National Guard.

Furthermore, the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA published today in Managua, on one of its inside pages, a list of 56 prisons which exist in Nicaragua. The newspaper claimed that the list was provided by a high-ranking State Security officer who preferred to remain anonymous.

According to the sources quoted by the newspaper, the prisons are capable of holding 8,000 prisoners.

A high-ranking church source consulted on the issue by ACAN-EFE said that, unfortunately, its institution does not have an organization that could conduct such an investigation.

Therefore, the number given by the government cannot be termed as "exact," but the most convenient thing would be for the families to confirm if their relatives have left prison.

Antiaircraft Defenses Repel Plane From Honduras

PA0402164190 Paris AFP in Spanish 1612 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 4 Feb (AFP)—The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported today that the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) antiaircraft defenses repelled an unidentified plane in northern Nicaragua near the Honduran border on the evening of 2 February.

According to the report, which was published by the official newspaper BARRICADA, the plane flew over Quilali, some 260 km north of Managua.

The military report adds, however, that the fire from the antiaircraft defenses forced the plane to return to Honduran territory.

Military Service Scheduled To Be Reformed

PA0402201090 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1613 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 4 Feb (DPA)—Carlos Nunez, president of the Nicaraguan Legislative Assembly, announced today that the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) will amend several laws, including the ones concerned with military doctrine. Also scheduled for amendment is the law on military service that has been in effect since 1983.

Nunez made the statements during a radio program, noting that the amendments to the law on military service will be made after the 25 February elections, in which 10 political parties will be competing for the Presidency.

Nunez (who is first candidate to deputy for the FSLN) added that one of the amendments to the law on military service would be a gradual reduction in the recruitment quotas for youths 17-24 years of age.

He recalled that the Nicaraguan extreme rightists have been talking about repealing the law on military service "as if this were their main battle cry, but this is just a means of obtaining the votes of the mothers, sweethearts, children, and parents who are of voting age."

"We Sandinists are not liars; our fundamental goal is to achieve peace, and one of the conditions is to end the war," Nunez said. Meanwhile, Danilo Aguirre, candidate to deputy for the FSLN, said in this regard that "it is very easy to ask for the war to continue and at the same time ask that the military service be abolished because this is tantamount to saying: Let the defense be abolished and the counterrevolutionaries win so that the youths will continue dying."

All of the opposition parties which have agreed to participate in the elections in Nicaragua have been asking that the law on military service be repealed.

Authorities Report EPS-Contra Clashes

PA0402124890 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Jan 90 p 6

[Text] Twenty clashes occurred between troops of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] and counterrevolutionary forces during the 15-23 January period, resulting in the annihilation of 38 mercenaries, including the counterrevolutionary leader known as "Caiman." The EPS troops sustained one dead and one wounded.

During one of the actions the EPS rescued five civilians kidnapped by the mercenary forces and confiscated 15 AK-47 rifles, five rifle kits, three M-79 grenade launchers, 22 M-79 grenades, one Claymore mine, six backpacks, a pair of boots, two raincoats, one hammock, and assorted documents.

All the military actions occurred in the departments of Jinotega, Matagalpa, Chontales, Rio San Juan, Esteli, and the Autonomous Southern Atlantic Region.

Chronology of the most important clashes:

1. On 16 January a clash occurred at the place known as El Pajaro, located northwest of Rancho Grande, Matagalpa Department, where five mercenaries were killed.

2. That same day our troops fought against a group of mercenaries at the place known as Copalar, located southwest of Mulukuku, Matagalpa Department, where five mercenaries died—including the counterrevolutionary leader known as "Caiman"—and two AK-47 rifles and two backpacks were seized.

3. On 18 January there was a clash at the place known as Buena Vista, southeast of El Almendro, Rio San Juan Department, where five mercenaries were annihilated and four AK-47 rifles were seized.

4. That same day there was some fighting at the place known as Mesa de Los Espejos, east of La Trinidad, Esteli Department, where one comrade died and one was wounded. The enemy sustained three dead. The dead comrade's name was Leonel Peralta and the wounded comrade's name is Heriberto Soto.

5. On 23 January our troops fought against a mercenary group in Cerro Buena Vista, north of Abisinia, Jinotega Department, where our troops managed to rescue five kidnapped civilians.

Following are the rescued civilians: Gregorio Sanchez Cerda, Ismael Luna Sanchez, Joaquin Cerda Davila, Rosario Sequeira Hernandez, and Angela Ruiz Davila.

Terrorist actions against the civilian population and economic targets:

The mercenary forces persisted in their terrorist actions against the civilian population and economic targets. In their desperate efforts to stop the peasants from voting for the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] by using the armed proselytizing favored by UNO [National Opposition Union], the mercenaries perpetrated two kidnappings, one murder, two thefts, one harassment, and the interception of a privately owned vehicle, which resulted in a civilian's death.

The terrorist actions occurred in Jinotega, Chontales, Matagalpa, and Nueva Segovia Departments and the Autonomous Southern Atlantic Region.

Chronology of the most important actions:

1. On 17 January a group of mercenaries kidnapped three civilians at the place known as Plan Jilguero, east of Wiwili, Jinotega Department.

Following are the kidnapped civilians' names: Antonio Miranda (18 years), Francisca Leonor B. (15 years), and Nicolasa P. Rivera (15 years).

2. On 20 January the mercenaries stole 150 heads of cattle from the Infierno Verde Project at the place known as Cano Zanzibar, northeast of Santo Domingo, Chontales Department.

3. That same day the mercenary forces assassinated a peasant, Eugenio Lopez Perez, at Cerro Garrafon, southwest of Mulukuku, Matagalpa Department.

4. On 22 January the mercenary forces intercepted a privately-owned truck at Empalme Las Lomas, northwest of Jinotega, and burned it.

Defense Ministry Figures on Jan Contra Attacks

PA0402125090 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry has reported that 182 contra actions against civilian and military objectives took place in different points of the country during the month of January.

According to the ministry, the contras' attacks in January resulted in 38 persons killed, 65 wounded, 77 kidnapped, and two missing. Included among the victims are minor Jose Enrique Silva, who was murdered in front of his parents.

Tomas Salgado and Concepcion Santelis, Sandinist National Liberation Front activists, were murdered in Jinotega and Madriz Departments, respectively.

Panama

Foreign Minister Linares Holds News Conference

PA0202193990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1838 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Panama City, 2 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—U.S. troops will conduct patrols in Panamanian territory, according to the Panamanian Government, but that situation will not be the case indefinitely, Foreign Minister Julio Linares said today.

At a news conference, Linares denied the 1977 Panama-U.S. Canal Treaty will permit the United States to conduct patrols throughout Panamanian territory until the treaty expires on 31 December 1999.

"The treaty does not give the U.S. Army the right to stage patrols. The difference is that the Panamanian Government is granting the Army permission to do it today because of special circumstances. But this will not be the case until the year 2000," the foreign minister explained.

In response to a reporter's question, Linares said he does not believe that U.S. General Marc Cisneros has said the 1977 treaties give the U.S. Army that right.

Cisneros, commander of the U.S. Army South based in Panama, told reporters on 1 Februry that the United States will continue to patrol Panamanian territory along with the Panamanian Public Force, even after the additional U.S. troops sent for the 20 December invasion leave this month.

Regarding the suggestions by several Latin American governments and U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle that new elections or a plebiscite be held in Panama, Linares said "the Panamanian Government is legimitate and does not have to prove this to anyone."

"The government of President Guillermo Endara is legitimate and legal," the minister stated, "because it won the 7 May elections and was recognized as such by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal."

In the minister's opinion, those who are demanding new elections in Panama and denouncing foreign intervention in this country are also meddling in Panama's domestic affairs.

Linares said the Venezuelan and Nicaraguan Embassies have not notified the Panamanian Government about any people in asylum, although it is public knowlege that there are people associated with the former regime who are in asylum at those diplomatic missions.

Former Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma, against whom several suits were filed in January for alleged administrative irregularities, is in asylum at the Venezuelan Embassy.

According to Linares, given the lack of an official communication, Panama cannot officially consider Solis someone who has sought asylum; he is simply " the ambassador's guest or visitor."

The foreign minister added that, contrary to Venezuela and Nicaragua, the embassies of Cuba, Ecuador, and the Vatican have said that some people have sought shelter at their diplomatic missions, and these embassies have requested safe-conduct for them.

The Panamanian Government has granted approximately 20 safe-conduct passes and will grant others, but only to those who have no charges pending or lawsuits against them, Linares said.

"If they have trials pending or are common criminals, we will not only not grant safe-conduct; we will also ask the respective countries to turn these people over to us," he added.

Linares also said Panama has not ruled out establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, "considering the changes that are occurring there."

Referring to Peru, he said relations between the Endara and Alan Garcia governments reached "their lowest point" in January; but "they have improved in recent days, or at least they have not worsened."

According to Linares, the Peruvian authorities have not insisted on issuing statements that are "insulting" to the

Panamanian people, and even Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox has publicly apologized for calling Endara "the Judas of Latin America."

Referring to Cuba, the foreign minister said Panama is interested in having good relations with Havana despite the vast difference in the political regimes, adding that if the Cubans do not want the same thing, "we will have to review the situation."

Likewise, Linares revealed that no efforts have been made regarding Panama's readmission into the Group of Eight, from which the country was expelled 2 years ago. The group is composed of Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina.

"If most of the Group of Eight member countries have not normalized their relations with Panama, why should we exert ourselves to return?" the foreign minister asked.

On the other hand, Linares said Panama's relations with the EEC and Central America are "good."

Arrest of Palma, Rodriguez, Others Sought

PA0202200090 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1908 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Panama City, 2 Feb (DPA)—Attorney General Rogelio Cruz today instructed the Panamanian Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) to arrest former Presidents Francisco Rodriguez and Manuel Solis Palma, as well as ousted General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who is imprisoned in the United States, and 18 former government ministers.

PTJ Director Leslie Loaiza told DPA that the list of people to be arrested includes Jorge Ritter, former foreign minister, Carlos Ozores, former vice president and vice president of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPPAL), and Aura Torrijos, sister of the late Omar Torrijos.

The attorney general also asked the PTJ to arrest Celso Carrizo, former president of the Legislative Assembly, Fermin Herrera, former president of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, which in December proclaimed Noriega chief of government, and former Attorney General Olmedo Sanjur.

Loaiza disclosed that the former military men against whom arrest warrants have been issued include Asuncion Gaitan, the former chief of Noriega's bodyguards who is currently in the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama; Roberto Armijo, first chief of the Public Force who resigned a few days after having been appointed; and the last three state security chiefs, Fernando Barrera, Julio Ow Young, and Guillermo Wong.

Endara, Arias Meet Public Force Officers

PA0302183290 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Officers of the new Public Force, headed by Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Herrera, met with President Guillermo Endara and with Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president and government and justice minister, this afternoon. President Endara, Vice President Arias, and the Public Force officers met to discuss the reorganization of the new Public Force and the mechanisms that will be used to guarantee the security of all Panamanians.

The meeting held at the Balboa Theater began with viewing a program entitled "Because We Care," which included a feature entitled "Never Again" [video shows various confrontations between the former Panama Defense Forces members and the opposition], which was produced by the Circuito RPC Television journalistic team and directed by journalist Julio Miller.

The "Never Again" feature of the "Because We Care" program was shown to the Public Force officers so all those former Defense Forces officers would not allow such incidents to happen again.

In addition, Public Force Chief Lt. Col. Eduardo Herrera addressed his officers and told them about everything he went through after he was exiled by Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime.

[Herrera] "I think the experiences I had and the contacts I made during those 10 years turned out to be among the worst mistakes made by Mr. Noriega. When I was in exile I made all kinds of contacts abroad. I had all sorts of experiences. Those contacts helped me conduct a type of subversive struggle from abroad. The intention was basically to free all of our comrades in arms who had been arrested. There were various plans. The gringos, however, are like a big elephant. In other words, after the big elephant moves one leg, it is troublesome to move the other. Thus, we never succeeded in formulating any plans.

"I started contacting the Israelis. They spent 30 days here in Panama. It was a secret plan. There were 25 members of the Israeli commandos, 100 men from a South American country, and 30 Panamanians. The first group of Israelis came here to find a way to catch Noriega. They spent 30 days here. During those 30 days, they followed him. They reported the following to me, and I am going to say it publically here. They told me: Herrera sit down. General Noriega is bisexual. He has a boyfriend or something like that and he does not go home often. I told them: We already knew that.

"Later on we put together a plan that cost $2.8 million. What we, the officers who were abroad, always tried to avoid was a U.S. invasion of Panama. I now wonder whether I, along with 150 other men, would have had the ability to dismantle this whole gang, which was a capo mafia type gang. I think it would have been very difficult and all those who are here now are sorry for that. I do not think there is one single Panamanian, whether military or civilian, who does not hurt when he sees foreign troops in our homeland.

"We are living a new phase now. It is a phase of democratization and respect for human rights. We are living a phase in which the things we saw on that television screen will not happen ever again. The things that did not appear on that screen will not happen ever again either.

"I have ordered the destruction of all the punishment cells that existed throughout the country. Inhuman treatment has to disappear from Panama. Nobody would like to have his son, brother, or relative beaten up in the savage way in which [words indistinct]. Gentlemen, the military uniform is worn only for 25 years, no longer than that."

President Endara stressed the true role the military should play in Panama.

[Endara] "The Public Force must be an exemplary organization. It must symbolize respect for citizens' rights. It must act professionally in its struggle against criminals. The Public Force must be fully aware that its goal is to serve the people, the community, and the society in general.

"The work that lies ahead of us is very hard. Panamanian society expects us to provide it with security. It needs security not only for peaceful homes, but also to create trust leading to fruitful work."

To conclude, first Vice President Arias closed the event with a report on the organization that must prevail within the Public Force to defend the Panamanian people without creating an army.

[Arias] "There is a connection that constitutes the starting point of what we are doing together. What are we doing together? We are creating a new Public Force. It will not or cannot be an army, the country does not want it to be an army. However, it must be a serious, respected, and respectable professional service that will provide the country with security.

The country, which does not or will not return to the past, wants to live in the present and prepare for the future. The country knows that to do this, it needs security, but not just any security. Therefore, the country wants your services. It needs you, and it understands this better today than it did yesterday, and tomorrow, it will understand it better than it does today. However, it wants a service that will not be an army; it wants a service provided by professionals who will offer their fellow citizens the security of respect for human rights, the enforcement of a de jure state, and the defense of democracy."

Endara Comments on Judicial Branch Independence

PA0302202690 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1738 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] A large crowd of lawyers on 1 February hosted a reception at the Lung Fung Restaurant to honor the new magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice, the nation's attorney general, and the attorney general of the administration. Many lawyers, regardless of their race, political background, or creed, attended the reception with the conviction that the members of the new Judicial Branch, given their moral and intellectual qualities, will guarantee human rights and remain totally independent from the other branches of the administration, always striving for justice.

Speaking on behalf of the Association of Lawyers, Hernan Delgado said the following:

[Begin Delgado recording] Under the present circumstances, reconciliation can become a synonym of unity and solidarity among the professionals of justice in Panama. This can be done, as we now have a guarantee of the respect for the law and the democratic institutions that are the only guarantors of a true reconciliation. We have a unique responsibility to fulfill for ourselves, our children, the world, and history; and we must confront it as the greatest challenge, as the moment so demands. [end recording]

Afterward there were statements by Jose Manuel Faundes, vice president of the Supreme Court of Justice; by the attorney general of the administration, Olga Feraud; and by independent lawyer Carlos Jones. The closing speech was delivered by President Guillermo Endara Galimany, who said:

[Begin Endara recording] For our part, our government insists on the absolute independence of the judicial branch and the Attorney General's Office. We must establish juridical customs and traditions that will last forever. We must establish the fact that the judicial branch and Attorney General's Office not only deserve respect for their independence, but also the economic support of the state.

During a Cabinet council session that was attended by the comptroller general, it was decided that all of the expenses of the Attorney General's Office will have priority over any other expenses in the next few months. [end recording]

Executive Branch Names Endara's Special Adviser

PA0402020590 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 31 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Through Decree 91 dated 30 January, the executive branch has appointed Dr. Joaquin Fernando Franco as special adviser to the president of the Republic.

Dr. Franco, a prominent politician, has worked as a minister under past administrations. He is a former president of the Colon Free Zone and is currently vice president of the Authentic Liberal Party. He has performed outstanding work in all the public posts he has held and is a very honorable citizen.

In the past few years Dr. Joaquin Franco promoted the struggle for democracy in Panama with great determination. He was one of the supporters of the daily EXTRA, which was closed by the regime because of its persistent struggle for freedom of expression.

Foreign Minister Views Refugees in Embassies

PA0402125790 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Jan 90 p 1A

[Report by Migdalia Fuentes de Pineda]

[Text] The status of the refugees at the Cuban and Peruvian embassies might be decided today, according to what Foreign Minister Julio Linares has told this newspaper.

Dr. Linares pointed out that the commission formed by the government to expedite the procedure to be followed on the status of the refugees will meet today. This commission is made up of one official from the Foreign Ministry, one representative from the Government and Justice Ministry, and one representative of the Attorney General's Office.

Dr. Linares pointed out that as a result of the first evaluation done by this commission, safe-conduct had been granted to the family of former legislator Luis Gomez, the family of Captain Sucre, and a grandson of Manuel Antonio Noriega. The foreign minister said he and the attorney general will attend today's meeting with the commission to determine the situation of another group of persons in asylum.

"I am the first one to accept that there was a delay in solving the problem of the persons in asylum in the embassies, and although I admit there has been a delay, I do not believe we are to be blamed for that," the foreign minister said, adding that not all diplomatic missions immediately notified the Foreign Ministry—as they should have done and as the Caracas Convention stipulates—about the persons in asylum at their embassies.

Dr. Linares refuted some criticism made of the government for having granted safe-conduct to Noriega's grandson, but not to the child's parents, who are still at the Cuban Embassy. Regarding this, the foreign minister pointed out that the child does not have to leave alone, as he can stay with his parents.

"What we are saying is that we have nothing against that child. He can leave with his parents' approval, and he will obviously have to be picked up by some relative, but his parents can keep him at the embassy."

Concerning the Panamanian foreign service, Dr. Julio Linares told LA PRENSA that most of the ambassadors appointed by the previous regime have been dismissed. He said that charges d'affaires have taken over in most of these cases until new ambassadors are appointed.

"The Foreign Ministry was not planning to dismiss such a considerable number of chiefs of mission, but rather do it in a progressive manner. However, as soon as the government changed, the Foreign Ministry began to receive information from various parts of the world about rather unloyal behavior from the chiefs of mission. Some of them were making statements against the new government, while others tried to change bank accounts," he pointed out.

When referring to relations with Cuba, Nicaragua, and Peru, Dr. Linares said that relations had reached a very low, almost alarming, level with Peru, but they have been improving. As for Cuba and Nicaragua, he pointed out that in this case there have not been diplomatic relations.

"We hope that with Cuba and Nicaragua it will occur the same as with other countries, so these relations can improve. We have no knowledge that the Governments of Cuba and Nicaragua have adopted any hostile actions against the Panamanian Government. However, I reiterate that although we wish to maintain cordial relations with all countries of the world, we will demand respect as a state and as a government, and we will not allow any foreign state to insult us or offend us, just because it does not think as we do or for any other reason."

Regarding recognition of President Endara's government by those countries that have not yet recognized it, Foreign Minister Linares said Panama is not taking any official steps to achieve recognition.

Linares added: "We have no reason to ask for recognition, because such recognition is granted to de facto governments, and the Endara government is not a de facto government but a legitimate and legal government."

Concerning Panama's foreign policy, Dr. Linares stated that Panama has not taken any steps to rejoin the Group of Eight, because if most of the countries that form that group have failed to normalize their relations with President Endara's government, it would be senseless to try to rejoin it.

Linares said: "I believe Panama's participation in the Group of Eight should be studied and reconsidered in due time."

CPC Politburo Ties Alleged in Passport Issue

PA0402185690 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 4 Feb 90 p 1

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Reliable sources have informed EL PANAMA AMERICA of a list of more than 30 Chinese citizens living in Panama who are engaged in issuing passports and other immigration documents for PRC citizens.

According to the source, the list includes 10 citizens from Beijing, who are also linked to several Chinese casinos operating in various parts of the capital.

Their names are: Li Jian Xiong, Lo Qui Fang, Shen Shaoji, Sheng Lu Ran, Pan Shu Xun, Jackson Pai, Zhao Dong Meng, Wen Tian Hai, Li Hai Liang, and He Bej Ping.

According to the sources consulted, one of the Chinese citizens involved is linked to the Politburo of the Communist Party of China [CPC].

Among the other Chinese participating, there are some connected with immoral businesses in Beijing.

Immigration Director Jose de los Santos Chen Barria has recently reported that more than 10,000 citizens from China have entered the country during the past few years by paying exorbitant sums for their immigrations papers.

PRD Issues Communique; Criticizes 'Repression'

PA0402203590 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 4 Feb 90 pp A1, B9

[Communique from the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] The current regime derived from the brutal U.S Army invasion on 20 December, which left more than 4,000 dead and 6,000 wounded, has now unleashed the most merciless political and psychological repression against the leaders and people of our party.

The current regime has passed from **a large-scale repression**—carried out by the invading Army, which kept more than 10,000 prisoners of war in the Nuevo Emperador and Fort Clayton concentration camps—to a **selective repression** against certain political personalities to continue the policy of terror and fear that justifies the foreign troops' provoking presence and prevents the reactions of our people, who today suffer the hardships that the invasion has provoked and aggravated.

With this goal in mind, the regime has implemented the policy of denying safe-conduct to all those who have sought shelter in some Latin American embassies, terming them common criminals, in a clear violation of the right to asylum consecrated in the Inter-American Asylum Convention signed at Caracas in 1954 and subscribed to by the Republic of Panama. This attitude has been fully repudiated by Latin American and European governments, some of which have stated that they will protect the people who have sought shelter in their missions.

The regime's **selective** repression is now based on lengthy lawsuits against persons that oppose it. In fact, the Attorney General's Office has ordered the arrest of more than 89 people who were on the State Council of the government that was ousted by the invasion; they have been accused of "obstructing the creation of state branches." Likewise, the regime has arrested 510 corregimiento representatives who were appointed before 20 December for the alleged crime of "usurping public posts."

The regime has reached the absurd extreme of demanding incredibly high bail amounts to prevent the release of certain prisoners. For example, a penal judge granted a corregimiento representative's release, provided he paid a $15,000 bail. This action implies **denying justice** to those who, for political circumstances, require the established legal procedures to protect themselves from a repressive action.

The regime's selective and large-scale repression has been **covered up** by the indiscriminate filing of lawsuits, with the intention of hiding behind an alleged legality and preventing the report on human rights violations.

The terror that the invasion has caused in the civilian population is now joined by the judicial and psychological terror being used to scare political adversaries, with the intention of liquidating a **true opposition** and making room for a **loyal** opposition (fictitious) that justifies the antinational actions currently being carried out against our country and its patriotic forces.

[Two illegible signatures follow]

Public Employees Claim 'Harassment' of Leaders

PA0402235490 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Hector Aleman, leader of the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees [FENASEP], told RPC Radio yesterday that the union under his leadership is a democratic organization that elects its leaders every 2 years. Aleman also referred to the current harassment against the FENASEP leaders.

[Begin recording] [Aleman] I would not go as far as saying this is an all-out attack, but one thing is certain: The list of unjustified dimissals at all the ministries is headed by the leaders of our associations. This shows that, in practice, there is an attempt to destroy the federation. The fact is that the secretaries general of the associations are being harassed right now to the point they cannot carry out their duties in the institutions where they work. Several of our union offices have been shut down by several institutions without any explanation. Several of our federation leaders—secretaries general and members of the leadership—are not even allowed to enter their offices in the institutions. All of this shows that, in practice, there is a group within the government that does not tolerate democratic activities within the institutions, and prefers to prevent—by means of force—the normal operations of our federation.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the possibility that the 13th month bonus—an achievement of the public employees—might be eliminated?

[Aleman] We are opposed to that measure, and we have always said so. When the U.S. Government imposed sanctions on our country, withheld monies, and banned the payment of taxes, this led to a catastrophic crisis in the national economy. As a result, the previous regime tried to eliminate payment of the 13th month bonus. At the time, we voiced our opposition to that measure, and we carried out all sorts of actions to prevent the elimination of the 13th month bonus. With our struggle, we guaranteed that in one way or another we could always keep this achievement, even though it was reduced in view of the country's economic circumstances. However, the fact was that we defended our achievement, and we still have it.

We feel that if the government is talking about economic recovery and of releasing the funds in escrow in the United States, and if taxes are again being paid—in other words, if all the reasons why this achievement was affected are being eliminated—then there is no reason

why we cannot receive the benefits of the 13th month bonus, which all workers want.

[Reporter] We have also heard from the workers who were fired during the Noriega regime that FENASEP did nothing to defend them, yet today FENASEP is defending the dismissed workers. What can you tell us about this?

[Aleman] That is absolutely false. We have evidence to the effect we took to the streets on many occasions to fight for the reinstatement of public officials, regardless of their political affiliation. It seems that now many think Panamanian history begins on 20 December 1989, and they forget everything the state employees fought for and achieved to guarantee our stability and our federation's survival.

The last two big national struggles by FENASEP—for example in April 1988—were precisely for reinstating officials who had been dismissed because they were accused of being seditious. As a result of our struggle, the majority of those workers were reinstated. [end recording]

Businessman Reports Noriega's Gunrunning

PA0302022690 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Panamanian businessman Jose Manuel Echevers yesterday reported in a news conference that Costa Rican authorities are accomplices in the gunrunning carried out between Nicaragua and Panama by former General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who is currently in a U.S. prison.

The people he mentioned as involved in the activity include Public Security Minister Hernan Garron, who said the Panamanian must present evidence and the list of the presumed accomplices.

Echevers said the weapons arrived in Panama by land on 15 April 1989 in eight containers, which crossed our national territory with the Costa Rican authorities' apparent complicity.

Minister Hernan Garron Salazar was surprised by the Panamanian's statements and he has instructed Rigoberto Mendez, head of the Crime Prevention Department, and the ministry's legal adviser to prepare a notarized document with the accusations. Garron said it is deplorable that Echevers had not issued his accusations until now.

Echevers was charged with illegal posession of weapons and later released on bail, after the Rural Police found several arsenals in his house that would presumably be destined for arming a guerrilla group against Noriega.

Habeas Corpus Denied to Former Immigration Head

PA0302032990 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Jan 90 pp 1, 2A

[Text] The Supreme Court of Justice has decided to deny the habeas corpus petition filed by a law firm in favor of Belgica Murgas de Castillo, confirming that her detention is legal, and ordering that she be immediately placed in the custody of the Attorney General's Office.

The Munoz and Associates law firm filed a habeas corpus petition in favor of the former director of the Immigration and Naturalization Department at the First Superior Court on 22 January.

Murgas de Castillo entered the Apostolic Nunciature on 23 December and remained there until 10 January, when she was arrested by order of Attorney General Rogelio Cruz Rios.

According to the detainee's lawyers, she was deprived of her freedom "without a written order from proper authorities and was not informed immediately of the causes and reasons for her arrest or of her constitutional and legal rights."

Attorney General Rogelio Cruz Rios said he issued a written order for Belgica Murgas de Castillo's preventive arrest based on a criminal charge filed by Jose Chen Barria, current director of the Immigration and Naturalization Department, for destroying public documents, withdrawing money from safes, and other crimes.

The Supreme Court's decision concludes stating that it is not true that Belgica Murgas de Castillo was deprived of her freedom "without an order from a proper authority," and adds that "the due process established by the Constitution and the law has not been violated" by the preventive arrest.

The court indicated that there are "others involved in the denounced illegal actions who also incriminate her."

A decision on a request for bail is still pending at the Eighth Criminal District Court.

Jose Chen Barria, director of the Immigration and Naturalization Department of the Government and Justice Ministry, filed a formal charge against Belgica Murgas de Castillo for a large number of illegal activities. Some of those are "destroying public documents, breaking into and withdrawing money from safes, illegal appropriation of government property (automobiles), corruption of public officials, nonfulfillment of legal and formal procedures in the transaction of all kinds of visas, illegal and unreported fees, accepting bribes, and attempting to destroy government property."

Antiterror Unit Killed U.S. Citizen 20 Dec

PA0402030390 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Feb 90 p 1

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] A command from the former FDP [Panama Defense Forces] Special Antiterror Service Unit (UESAT) "executed" U.S. citizen Raymond Dragseth, who was kidnapped at daybreak on 20 December during the U.S. invasion that resulted in the ousting of former General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Judicial Technical Police Director Leslie Loaiza told local newsmen that Dragseth was "kidnapped by former FDP members, who later became members of the current Public Force." However, he added, "it has not been determined yet who fired at the U.S. citizen."

Loaiza said former UESAT Chief Captain Alex Omar Carrillo was the commander of the group that kidnapped and executed Dragseth. He did not mention, however, how many people were in this group.

Dragseth, a U.S. professor who lived in the Paitilla neighborhood, was found dead on 20 December. He had been shot in the head. At that time there were various rumors about what had happened.

Two months before the invasion, the military regime launched the order "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," urging former FDP members and militiamen in the Dignity Battalions to take "revenge against the local aristocracy, the opposition, and U.S. citizens, in case the U.S. Army kidnapped or killed Noriega."

"We are conducting investigations to determine who fired at him, and very soon we will find the culprit," Loaiza maintained. He added that those involved are at the disposal of the assistant prosecutor.

Loaiza stated that even if some members of the Public Force are involved in this case, "they will have to pay for their crime."

Loaiza said: "No matter who they may be, including the Public Force members, whoever commits a crime will have to stand trial."

Judicial Police Report Crime Wave in January

PA0402044490

[Editorial Report] Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish in its 31 January issue carries a front-page report on the wave of crime that has broken out in Panama City during the last 30 days.

The report says Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] Chief Leslie Loaiza stated that the PTJ has fully identified the members of "three armed gangs that have committed many crimes in Panama City over the last 30 days." According to the report, Loaiza said the gangs are conducting more robberies now "because they have better weapons than the PTJ members do." The report adds that, as for criminal statistics, Loaiza said: "There have been 21 murders and 600 robberies in Panama City so far this year, which shows a significant increase in crime compared to the same period last year."

The report concludes, saying that regarding the Attorney General's Office investigations into the murder of lawyer Ruben Oscar Miro in 1970, Loaiza said that he has nothing to fear. He is quoted as saying: "I have already made a sworn statement before the Attorney General's Office, and I told the whole truth about that case."

Church Concerned About Revenge, True Death Toll

PA0402044990 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Jan 90 p 16

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] The Catholic Church in Colon, Kuna Yala, and Darien has asked for an end to "revenge and witchhunts" and says that many difficulties are being encountered at official and U.S. levels in learning the true number of people killed as a result of the invasion.

This is part of a document, signed by Monsignor Romulo Emiliani, apostolic vicar to Darien, and Carlos Maria Ariz, bishop to Colon and Kuna Yala, to which LA PRENSA had access.

The document, entitled "The Message of the Catholic Church in Colon, Kuna Yala, and Darien," was issued following the religious retreat of 120 missionaries belonging to those churches at El Tabor, Colon, between 16 and 25 January 1990.

Analyzing the country's current situation, the missionaries expressed "concern over the continued and increased activities of attitudes that have always resulted in division, injustice, and death: vengefulness, witchhunting, anonymous and indiscriminate public accusations, and arrogance."

The missionaries asked themselves: "Will reconciliation and peace be born from that?"

The document signed by Emiliani and Ariz says it is worrisome that this country should begin this stage "with the invasion by a powerful nation with which our people have traditionally lived under relations of domination and dependence." Therefore, what is at stake in the future is "whether we shall manage to live with the autonomy that we deserve as a sovereign nation."

The missionaries' message also says that since the U.S. invasion, "the immense majority of our people believe the clouds of death have cleared, and with naive optimism predict times of calm and prosperity."

Regarding the number of people killed as a result of the U.S. invasion, the missionaries said that "at official and U.S. levels many difficulties are encountered in learning

the figures," as even "the U.S. Episcopal Conference has mentioned no fewer than 3,000 killed."

The U.S. Army admitted that the 20 December invasion that broke up the military regime killed about 56[illegible] Panamanians, although unofficially in Panama the possibility of a much higher figure was mentioned.

The missionaries are also concerned "over the new government's economic policies, such as privatization of government properties, cutbacks in public spending, and private enterprise and capital as the only backbone of national development."

Canal Administrator Discusses Canal's Importance

PA0502004690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1458 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Panama City, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Panama Canal Administrator Fernando Manfredo said today's military importance of the canal is "zero" because its operation or closure would not have any impact in case of war.

On the other hand, he does believe the passage between the Atlantic and Pacific "will continue being an attraction for a terrorist group that wishes to win notoriety, especially while the United States is operating the canal" (until 1999).

In an article to the press on the canal's "vulnerability," the first Panamanian appointed administrator quotes experts who say the waterway "will continue being an important link to international maritime trade," but not a strategic point of military value as in the past.

Because of its importance for world trade and because closing it would not alter the course of war, Manfredo deduces that all countries "are interested in it working efficiently."

However, he adds, one cannot rule out terrorist "acts of sabotage," which "apart from winning notoriety, would create an embarassing situation for the United States."

Manfredo says the canal does not run the risk of civil disturbances in Panama, because even though "these have been frequent," they have never been aimed at disrupting the passage between the Atlantic and Pacific.

The administrator explains that the Panama Canal is vulnerable because it is not a simple "ditch" between two oceans, such as the Suez Canal. Instead, it is an "ingenious system of locks that are fed by gravity to raise ships from sea level to 85 feet (26 meters) into an artificial lake."

"This system immediately hints at the canal's main vulnerabilities: the system of locks and the dams that maintain the artificial lake. Both are fixed, known, visible objects that are vulnerable to sabotage, demolition incursions, or air attacks."

In case of an attack on either of these points, "even after repairs, the canal would be out of service for at least two rainy seasons," until the artifical lakes return to their operational levels, the administrator says.

Other canal defenses, adds Manfredo, are the strength of its structures—the Gatun Lake dam has an 800-meter base and the lock gates weigh up to 700 tons—and the great military and dissuasive power of the United States.

"A hostile country must think long and hard before attacking the canal, and that country would know what to expect as a reaction," Manfredo says.

In fact, Manfredo says in his article, "never in its 76 years of operation has the canal been attacked or been the target of an act of sabotage, despite the fact that in the past it really did have true military-strategic importance for the United States."

Editorial Rebuffs Remarks Attributed to Quayle

PA0302011790 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 1 Feb 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Elections...What For?"]

[Text] The proposal by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, reacting to questioning by Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley, on new elections in Panama is unheard of! Such an event, besides being unnecessary and untimely, is in fact unworkable. More than the decree of an imperial proconsul who is calling the shots, the young official's remarks appear to be expressions of an immature and nearsighted politician cornered by the diplomatic pressure of the head of another state and who is unable to understand the situation in Panama.

To say that Endara—product of the unmistakable will of the Panamanian electorate—must "legitimize" his government with some sort of elections amounts to nothing short of accepting that the Noriega surprise attack when he arbitrarily canceled the 7 May elections because the results did not go his way is legitimate. Not going farther than that, it also amounts to portraying the U.S. military action to us as the most brazen imperialist act in the history of that country. What sense could the violent occupation of our country by Yankee troops have other than to arrest and forcibly take away the delinquent in uniform that was holding all of us as his personal hostages?

Even in the hypothetical case that the Panamanian people, who are not morons or masochists, had harbored any doubts about the pressing need to eradicate the despotism of Noriega and his ilk, elections that would cost no less than 25 million balboas from the depleted public coffers, drained at will by Noriega's supporters, would be a luxury Panamanians cannot afford right now. The destruction left by the invasion, the impact of the economic sanctions that destroyed our infrastructure, and the administrative chaos we inherited from totalitarianism as a damned legacy do not permit any elections now, in the remote case there was any need for them.

Elections, what for? Elections, why? Elections, when? Who would run against whom? These are questions we

must ask in the face of the political imprudence of a young official, whose remarks now come to buttress the arguments of a tiny group of left-wing fanatics, who long for the return of their torture apparatus with which they oppressed, but did not subdue, a people's strong commitment to democracy.

Editorial Series Discusses Future of U.S. Bases

Canal Should Be Neutral

PA0302022990 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 30 Jan 90 p 4A

[Editorial: "Panama and the Military Bases, Part II"]

[Text] In yesterday's editorial under the same headline, we raised with the public the need to analyze, study, and weigh the advisability of renting military bases to the U.S. Government after the year 2000 through popular consulation. We pointed out that there is no sense in such bases being used by Panamanian troops from the standpoint of defense or benefit to the community. On the contrary, the cost of maintaining such bases would be so high that it would bankrupt the national treasury. Consequently, we stressed that we have two options—to see them turn into ruins with the passage of time or to rent them to the United States.

Moreover, if the military bases were to be maintained by the Public Force, this would require that its personnel be increased over and above the 16,000 men the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] had. We are not military experts, but it would not surprise us if the Public Force required at least 20,000 men to adequately man the military bases. We would soon realize that our police corps had just changed their name and that those who called for "Never again" had done so in vain.

A body of opinion holds, and we concur with it, that Panama should declare the canal neutral. Neutralizing the canal and renting the military bases to the United States are not incompatible. Even if the canal was neutral, international security considerations would prompt the United States to maintain military bases in Panama like it does in other countries. However, an additional U.S. military presence in a country where the United States already has military bases would be a provocation to the enemy in the event of a world conflagration. We ask ourselves if we would not necessarily be a target for having the canal here, with or without military bases, in the event of such a tragedy.

It would be wise to hold a public debate on the fate of the military bases. We must respect everyone's opinion after outlining the pros and cons. There will be emotional arguments and economic considerations. Let us analyze the moral and economic advantages as well as the relative value of the bases at this historical moment.

In the final analysis, the problem boils down to whether or not we should rent the military bases to the United States. For our citizens to be able to analyze and make an intelligent decision, we intend to present in a subsequent editorial some arguments that we think would have a bearing on the problem. In that EL PANAMA AMERICA is an information medium, we hereby offer to publish arguments that we most probably have failed to bring out, as well as opinions on the subject, no matter how contradictory they may be.

Possible Leasing of Bases

PA0302023390 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 31 Jan 90 p 4A

[Editorial: "Panama and the Military Bases, Part III"]

[Text] In a previous editorial we argued that Panamanians should debate the advantages and disadvantages of leasing the military bases on our territory to the United States after the year 2000, using treaties similar to those the United States has signed with Turkey, Greece, Spain, and the Philippines.

One of the disavantages is emotional. To what extent do Panamanians consider the presence of foreign soldiers in our territory detrimental to our sovereignty? If it is considered detrimental, why do other countries not view it as such? It might well be argued that because Panama is a small country, the impact of that presence on our culture would be even more harmful to the Panamanians. The economic impact of foreign military bases in the host country is less in big countries than in the small countries and percentage-wise, the bases bring more economic benefits to small countries than to big countries.

Recent statistics indicate that 5,500 Panamanians work for the U.S. Armed Forces. If the U.S. military bases are eliminated, Panama would have to provide jobs for 5,500 Panamanians—not an easy task. Many would be left unemployed. These Panamanians earn $81 million a year in wages from the U.S. Armed Forces. In addition to that economic injection, the U.S. Armed Forces spend $58 million a year on products and services in Panama. The employees of the U.S. defense agencies directly spend $60 million a year on personal purchases, mainly in small shops, food, drinks, entertainment, rent, and hotels. In straight facts, the withdrawal of the U.S. Armed Forces from Panama would mean a $200 million annual reduction in the gross domestic product and to avoid a serious contraction, equivalent revenue from another source would have to be found. We cannot imagine what that "other source" might be, and we believe it would be very hard to find.

Panama would obviously receive payment for leasing the military bases. How much could it charge? We will only know if we choose that course and we conclude the lease negotiations. However, there are precedents. In the cases of the Philippines and Spain, unofficial information indicates that the bases are leased for $1 billion a year, and Panama has the right to ask for a similar figure. Even though the use of those bases would not begin until the year 2000, that would be no obstacle for the lease

payments to be prorated from the moment the agreement is signed to the end of the lease period, so the Republic of Panama can immediately obtain a large sum from the U.S. Treasury.

In a subsequent editorial, we will discuss some options for the use of possible revenue from the leasing of military bases.

Benefits of Leasing Bases

PA0302023890 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 1 Feb 90 p 4A

[Editorial: "Panama and the Military Bases, Part IV]

[Text] In a previous editorial we pointed out that by the year 2000, Panama's economy would lose income of $200 million from its gross national product should the U.S. Armed Forces withdraw on that date. In addition, we said that in the hypothetical case that an agreement is reached for leasing U.S. bases, using as a reference the experience of the Philippines and Spain, we could possibly receive an annual income of $1 billion. Of course, that amount is a hypothesis that could only become a reality at the bargaining table.

Our basic problem is creating jobs, many jobs, to cover social needs. The comptroller general has depicted a truly gruesome fiscal outlook. The state has no funds, basically as a result of the $5 billion debt acquired by civilians during the dictatorship government, which require annual payments of more than $500 million. By simple arithmetic, there is no money left for the government's social expenses or for promoting private enterprise. Panama will not be able to reactivate its economy unless it gets rid of the foreign debt burden it inherited from the dictatorship's economists and military men.

An adequate solution through the leasing of military bases could partially solve the fiscal and economic crisis we are now facing. Obviously, it will require a great deal of study, reflection, and patriotism.

The greatest benefit from leasing the bases would be the possibility of charging the U.S. Treasury proportional rent from the date the agreement is signed instead of waiting for the year 2000. The U.S. Treasury's lease commitment would enable the finance minister to negotiate a loan to obtain enough cash to purchase our entire foreign debt. That debt would be purchased in a significantly devalued market at a much lower price. The foreign debt service would be greatly reduced, and the government could dedicate more resources to the people's well-being.

We repeat that the objective of this series of editorials is to encourage citizens to express their opinion, so they can freely chose the path toward the solution of national problems. Citizens must be interested in politics, but above all in their fatherland.

Editorial Warns of Path Toward Dictatorship

PA0502035590 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 31 Jan 90 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Let Us Avoid the Path Toward a Dictatorship"]

[Text] Ever since it was first practiced in Greece, democracy—power by consensus, the government of the people, by the people, and for the people—has carried with it the seeds of its own destruction. Poorly administered, the system ends up contradicting itself. When concepts do not go alongside pragmatic matters, democracy turns fragile and vulnerable.

After 21 years of undemocratic regimes in Panama, those who hold power are duty-bound to take stock of the tremendous responsibility they took on with the people on 7 May. Panamanians went to the polls to reject by an overwhelming majority a military oligarchy that was smothering us. The men who are shouldering this enormous historical commitment should understand perfectly well that they have received a specific and unrenounceable mandate from their people to develop, strengthen, and run a stable and lasting democracy.

The last two dictatorships of the past two decades did not emerge by magic, nor were they the result of spontaneous generation. It is not true that those despotic regimes stemmed solely from the whim and megalomania of two dictatorial figures. Let us say it forthrightly: All the conditions necessary to hatch these two big monsters in uniform, who mercilessly humiliated and oppressed our people, depleted the public treasury without constraint, and took immorality and corruption to its most loathsome levels, were not the product of chance.

In the sociology of the democracy - dictatorship - democracy cycle, one system always paves the way for the other. The military does away with democracy with the pretext of stopping corruption, but they become so corrupt while doing that that they end up crumbling under the weight of their own appetites. We must learn from history, use its examples, and break the vicious cycle that seems to unavoidably repeat itself.

Before 1968, some governments paid greater attention to political ambitions and the comfort of influential personalities, to the detriment of the welfare of the have-nots. The undeniable cases of corruption in the higher circles were tolerated with dangerous and complacent impunity. Wrongdoing went unpunished, administrative fraud was not condemned, the will of the people expressed in the polls was not respected.

The worst and most terrible mistake of those democratic regimes was to make the men in uniform the referees of political and personal disputes. The people's dissatisfaction with a democracy planted in such an environment paved the way toward a coup d'etat. The group of officers, graduates of schools for megalomaniacs, where they learned to be contemptous of civilians whom they considered their inferiors, emerged from the shadow to

behead the few and frail freedoms that still remained. Fanatics of the ultraleft dogma, whose feverish minds want to build a socialist paradise over the ashes of democracy, provided the ideological framework.

We have received a country destroyed in material and moral terms. In the midst of the greatest political confusion and total economic bankruptcy, we are nevertheless starting to march on the path that leads to a dictatorship.

—A marked indifference for the anguish of the people exists.

—It is unexplainable that some politicians have begun to woo the military accused of tortures and corruption.

—The stings of malcontents, fighting over the remains of the Noriega rule, can be felt.

—The Catholic Church has criticized the concept of political maneuvering room as immoral.

—There are attempts to hand people a justice that comes attached to an unacceptable reconciliation with criminals.

—Bands of outlaws are allowed to attack unarmed citizens.

On 7 May the people went out to vote against a dictatorship more than to choose a political color. That is precisely why we must keep in mind that the enemies of public liberties are lurking in the shadows to shrewdly stab these liberties. Let us avoid the path that leads to a dictatorship.

Argentina

Cavallo Travels to Spain for EEC Agreement

PY0402002490 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2215 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb (NA)—Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo tonight left for Spain to reach a basic cooperation agreement with the EEC.

Just before he boarded the Aerolineas Argentinas airliner, Cavallo said: "We wish to have excellent relations with all of Europe." He added: "Specific agreements signed in the past prove that this intention is real."

Official Comments on Possible Falklands Agreement

PY0302194090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2120 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 2 Feb (EFE)—It was reported today that on 8 and 9 February in Madrid, Argentine and British diplomats will study the possibility of lifting the military "exclusion zone" established by the UK around the Malvinas Islands.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Dante Loss has told EFE that the lifting of the restrictions is part of the "mutual confidence" measures whose implementation is being negotiated by Argentina and the UK as part of the attempt to fully resume the diplomatic relations that were severed during the 1982 war.

Loss described as "very optimistic" a report in which the Buenos Aires newspaper LA NACION today said that the British would lift the military "exclusion zone" of 150 nautical miles around the Malvinas.

"That is exactly what we will negotiate; it cannot be stated that an agreement has already been reached," the spokesman pointed out. [passage omitted]

Army Head: Military Subject To Political Power

PY0202145890 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Argentine Army Chief of Staff General Isidro Caceres has said that the Armed Forces are at the service of the nation and are subject to the political power. Caceres said this at the inauguration of Lieutenant General Guillermo de Nava, the new Uruguayan Army commander.

Asked about the situation in Argentina, Caceres said:

[Begin Caceres recording] President Menem, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has repeatedly said that the Armed Forces are subject to the political power and that they are fulfilling their mission. I believe that this is the best way to maintain stability among the institutions, the state of law, and the democratic system in Latin American countries. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Economist Named Vice President of Central Bank

PY0302151590 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Feb 90 p 5

[Text] (DYN)—The Central Bank announced the naming of economist Elvio Baldinelli as Vice President of that entity, a new position created by the Gonzalez economic team. Baldinelli was Undersecretary of Industry in 1961/62, Foreign Trade Secretary from 1968 to 1970 and Industry and Mining Secretary in 1982. Between 1977 and 1982 Baldinelli served as Argentine ambassador to the European Communities.

Bolivia

Paz on Drug Summit, Panama, European Tour

PY0302012690 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora has confirmed that he will travel to Europe by the end of April. The president today said that in the past few hours he has received an official invitation from King Juan Carlos of Spain to visit his country. Paz said that he plans to remain for a few days in Spain. He will then visit Italy, and he intends to hold talks with the EEC governments to seek more cooperation for Bolivia.

The president said his trip will extend to the first days of May, and that his agenda includes a possible meeting with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

The Bolivian chief of state also referred to the Bolivian Government's position on the antidrug summit that will take place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. He said his administration holds that the struggle against drug trafficking must be based on development and on the creation of alternative labor sources for the coca-producing peasants, and on the need to modify the national economic structure.

[Begin Paz recording] Our proposal is to practically (?modify) the Bolivian economic structure based on development alternatives to coca production. This is our basic proposal, which, as you already know, will be expressed in different (?parts) of the negotiations.

We must also take into consideration the interdiction and prevention of drug production, for which Bolivia is also responsible. Therefore, I think that the meeting will be quite complete and if things continue going as they are now, it will be very successful. [end recording]

The president said that the Cartagena summit is the first step in starting negotiation with Europe to seek greater support for the fight against drug trafficking.

As for the Bolivian Government's position regarding the Panama situation, President Paz affirmed that Bolivia maintains its principle that the U.S. military forces should withdraw from the isthmus. However, he made it

clear the Bolivian Government is not imposing this principle as a condition for the Cartagena summit.

[Begin Paz recording] No, it is not a condition. Drug trafficking and cocaine are one thing, and the invasion of Panama is something else. We must distinguish between the two things. Although we are not imposing a condition, I and my government continue to insist on the need for U.S. troops to withdraw from Panama. [end recording]

Further on Anticipated U.S. Antidrug Cooperation

PY0202134690 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde has pointed out that there is no official information regarding a possible change of date for the Bolivian Colombian, Peruvian and U.S. presidential summit which has initially been scheduled for 14 February in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

Concerning the possibility that Peruvian President Alan Garcia might not attend the summit, Iturralde considers the presence of the Peruvian president to be [word indistinct] the Peruvian Government should make the final decision.

Iturralde said Bolivian authorities are working on the Bolivian proposal to be submitted to the Peruvian, Colombian, and U.S. Governments in the belief that President Bush's administration will substantially increase its cooperation with Bolivia in the antidrug struggle.

We are expecting the U.S. Congress decision regarding President Bush's request to reinforce the antidrug struggle in coca leaf-producing countries.

Iturralde made it clear that the money the United States might allocate to Bolivia to implement antidrug programs will be the result of bilateral talks.

However, [word indistinct] government's position [word indistinct] it is essential for Bolivia to promote an all-out alternate development program to face the drug-trafficking problem.

Brazil

More Leaders Confirm Attendance at Inauguration

PY0202231090 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Eleven Latin American presidents have confirmed they will attend the inauguration of President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello on 15 March. The Itamaraty Ceremonial Department is waiting for at least three more presidents to confirm their attendance in the next few days: Cuban Fidel Castro, Nicaraguan Daniel Ortega, and Mexican Carlos Salinas.

Other chiefs of state will also attend Fernando Collor's inauguration. They are: Portugal's Mario Soares, Cape Verde's Aristides Pereira, and Spain's Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

Japanese 'Alternative' to Brady Plan Described

PY0302121990 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Jan 90 p 26

[Report by Silvia Faria]

[Excerpt] Brasilia—Private Japanese bankers and financial authorities do not believe in the U.S. solution to the foreign debt proposed through the Brady plan (using several mechanisms to reduce the outstanding foreign debt) and, in several conversations with President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello, have presented their own alternative. The ideal strategy for the Japanese would be to reschedule the debt under flexible terms while injecting new money from the industrialized countries.

"Japan does not believe that the idea of forgiving the debt, which is central to the Brady Plan, can be a solution because it does not produce a viable flow of new money. Nobody wants to give loans to a bankrupt country." This statement was made by a Brazilian businessman with great influence in the Japanese financial community who has recently returned from Tokyo.

In recent telephone contacts with Japan, bankers told him that Brazil could benefit from Japanese financial assistance since there is a willingness "to finance" the Collor government and its liberalizing message. According to this businessman, the Japanese mentioned to President-elect Fernando Collor the possibility of supporting his economic plans to open the Brazilian market by financing exports, imports, and the privatization of state enterprises in Brazil. [passage omitted]

USSR Invites Participation in Nuclear Research

PY0202125690 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Sao Paulo University physicists have enthusiastically received the announcement that Brazil will participate in the construction of a nuclear fusion reactor. The invitation was made by the Soviet Union to President-elect Fernando Collor during his visit yesterday to the Academy of Sciences in Moscow.

Like all physicists, Ivan Nascimento, director of the Sao Paulo University Physics Institute, dreams of the construction of a fusion nuclear reactor, the only kind that can generate electricity without radioactive waste. Professor Ivan Nascimento was an active participant in the talks between Brazilian and Soviet scientists that will now make it possible for Brazil to join the (?heater) reactor construction project in which the United States, Canada, Japan, European countries, and the Soviet Union are already participating.

This machine is a Tomahawk that belongs to the University of Sao Paulo and it is the only one in Latin America. It was built in Brazil 10 years ago. The (?heater), the new Tomahawk in whose construction Brazil will now participate, is much larger. The diameter of the vacuum chamber of this device is 60 centimeters; the (?heater) will have a diameter of 12 meters, and its power will be 100,000 times greater.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What does this invitation to President-elect Collor mean for the Brazilian scientific community?

[Nascimento] I believe it is very important in that it recognizes Brazilian scientists are in a position to cooperate on equal terms with scientists of the highest level in the international community. [end recording]

Chile

Foreign Ministry Official on U.S. Relations

PY0202143490 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary-elect Edmundo Vargas said in Washington today that as a follow-up to the solidarity expressed to Chile for the restoration of democracy, Chile expects economic support and fair treatment in its relations with the United States.

Vargas is paying a visit to the United States. He said that the U.S. wants to cooperate with President-elect Patricio Aylwin. We expect that all pending problems between the two countries will be solved, Vargas added.

Resumed Ties With Mexico, Others Upcoming

PY0302123690 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Report by Manuela Robles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Future Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has said he will continue to hold meetings with the president-elect to discuss international policy issues and the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with countries with whom Chile had previously broken relations. He cited Mexico as an example, pointing out that relations with this country will resume on 20 March. The Mexican Government wished to cite this fact, noting that 11 March [date of the Chilean presidential inauguration] would not be an appropriate day to stress the resumption of ties.

Silva Cimma said the Mexican foreign minister will probably come to Chile to reestablish diplomatic relations. The future foreign minister added that on 11 March, between 1730 and 1800, there will probably be an announcement regarding the reestablishment of relations with other countries with which Chile broke relations more than 16 years ago. Silva Cimma did not specify to which countries he was referring.

As for President-elect Aylwin, his meeting with future Interior Minister Enrique Krauss in Aylwin's home on Amapola Street continues.

Aylwin To Attend Brazilian Inauguration 14 Mar

PY0402233690 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 24 Jan 90 p 5

[Excerpt] Future Foreign Ministry Protocol Director Carlos Klammer reported on 23 January that President-elect Patricio Aylwin will visit Brazil on 14 March as president of the Republic to attend the inauguration of the Brazilian president. [passage omitted]

Venezuelan President To Attend Inauguration

PY0402010490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has officially confirmed that he will attend the presidential inauguration on 11 March 1990. This means that eight Latin American presidents will attend this event.

In addition to the Venezuelan president, the heads of state of Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, Paraguay, and Uruguay will come.

The inauguration's official activities will begin on Saturday, 10 March, with greetings and presentation of credentials to President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte.

The delegations will go to La Moneda Palace, where about 3,000 people are expected to attend.

Krauss Responds to Caceres on State of Nation

PY0302164090 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2331 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Speech by Interior Minister-designate Enrique Krauss in Santiago; date not given—recorded]

[Text] I beg you to forgive me for this interruption on an evening when most of you are relaxing, but a few days ago Interior Minister Carlos Caceres addressed the nation on orders from President Pinochet.

Caceres' speech took the people by surprise because of the unusual occasion and, above all, because of some aggressive remarks against representatives of the future democratic government. On instructions from President-elect Aylwin I would like to make some comments.

As of 14 December 1989 a sense of growing agreement and harmony has been taking over the country. This is testimony to the patriotic efforts of various social and political sectors to reorganize the system of national coexistence that has been so deeply painful over the past few years. This new environment is reflected, for example, in the agreement signed by the Central Labor Union and businessmen, and the responsible effort by

political forces represented in Congress to agree on the election of officials and on the rules for the operation of the future Congress.

The speech read by Minister Caceres on orders from President Pinochet contradicts this new atmosphere and seeks confrontation, which the Chilean people have rejected by their votes on two occasions. Minister Caceres wants to convince the Chilean people that the outgoing regime is handing over a flourishing and vigorous country where social justice prevails, where all Chileans enjoy equal opportunities, and where the poverty and suffering of many people seem to be something of the past. Caceres also tries to lay responsibility for preserving and strenghthening the alleged achievements of his administration on the future democratic government.

Caceres' position is surprising. It appears that an effort is being made to perpetuate a controversy that has already been overcome by the people, or that efforts are being made to blame the future democratic government in advance for the problems it will encounter. But the problems will result from the many restrictions imposed by the outgoing regime in its final days.

We categorically reject the effort to discredit a government overwhelmingly elected by the national majority as an expression of their rejection of the policies of the current regime. We do not pretend to deny the macroeconomic achievements of the outgoing government, which shows Chile's overall situation in a more favorable position than other countries of the region. We reiterate now, however, what we have said in the past: Those achievements were at the expense of moral and human suffering. Chileans had to pay the price with misery; a deterioration in their way of life, their health, and their education, and unemployment; all in violation of rights and traditional social gains.

The workers and the most modest sectors of the population know very well the price of those objectives. All political and social sectors of the country share an opinion on the workers' situation.

Moreover, Minister Caceres devoted a large part of his speech to defending the way in which the economy has been handled over the past years. We do not wish to bring up a debate over which, as we have already pointed out, the people have already clearly voiced their opinion in the 1988 plebiscite and the 14 December 1989 elections. What is notable is the fact that Minister Caceres maintains the inflation rate has not gone up and that the 1990 budget drawn up by the outgoing government will meet the needs of the country and its economy.

The increase in the inflation rate cannot be denied, as all Chileans will be able to see once the consumer price index [CPI] for the month of January is announced. The increase in the inflation rate is a result of the way the economy was handled in 1988. During that year the current government implemented an expansionist economic policy in the hopes of obtaining a favorable result in the plebiscite. This fact was opportunely denounced by the Coalition of Parties for Democracy.

The deterioration of the economy, as a result of this policy, has had a lasting effect as reflected in the high CPI rate for the past few months. During the last quarter of 1989 inflation rose at a rate equivalent to 30 percent per year. This is a severe setback we will inherit that will require moderation in public and private expenditures. This necessary restriction on expenditures will undoubtedly limit the future government's plans and affect all Chileans.

Minister Caceres also complains that those who will be in charge of running the country's economy in the future have pointed out the serious restrictions imposed by the 1990 budget.

Minister Caceres also complained that those who will administer the economy in the future should reveal the tight restrictions imposed by the 1990 budget law. Although this subject requires deeper analysis, it must be pointed out that it is an undeniable fact the new administration will begin working with a budget approved by the current regime that, consequently, does not reflect the priorities of the new administration. This will force us to propose a modification to the 1990 budget law for which we expect the support of all political forces.

We have also clearly and repeatedly stated that our economy faces specific restrictions as a consequence of the serious 1982-85 economic crisis. These restrictions, together with the tax exemptions granted in the past few years, represent a reduction of the fiscal resources that would cover expenses which the majority of the people consider essential and nonpostponable. One consequence can be seen in the large amount of funds the state has given to the Central Bank over the last few years, funds that have also been allotted to the Central Bank this year. The government is trying to avoid a technical bankruptcy of the Central Bank that is a result of the government's absorption of numerous debts from private institutions, a debt that now amounts to more than $5 billion. In this manner private debts will be paid by the rest of the country. We denounced this situation and called attention to the seriousness of the matter at the appropriate moment.

Expenses anticipated in the 1990 budget law have been based on the priorities of the current administration and on an unrealistic basis that underestimates requirements. We can cite as an example that, given an unrealistic 12-percent inflation rate forecast for 1990, no resources have been allocated for the legal readjustment of pensions whenever the IPC [Consumer Price Index] increases by 15 percent. When the 1990 budget law was being prepared, it was already known that the inflation rate in 1990 would be greater than 15 percent and that, consequently, expenses for pensions would inevitably increase. However, this was not provided for.

Another example of the insufficient budget for 1990 has to do with the financial problems of the universities. As

the public knows, the University of Chile, because of the lack of appropriate fiscal support, is facing serious financial problems that affect its normal development.

The country must be assured that in these fiscal matters, as in all others, we will proceed with great responsibility. We have acted accordingly during the recent election campaign. President Aylwin made the responsible statement that, in order to finance gradual and sound improvements in the social field, we must make an effort to collect fresh funds for the state through tax reform, credits from multilateral organizations for public investment programs, and economic growth, which we intend to vigorously promote.

We have always expressed our commitment to economic growth, financial stability, continuation of our export efforts, and improving the deteriorated standard of living of hundreds of thousands of Chileans. Today we reiterate this commitment. We will continue with these goals despite the innumerable restrictions imposed on us by the outgoing regime.

There is evidence of many other restrictions and limitations imposed by the regime on the future government. The most flagrant of these restrictions is the approval of a new public administration law through which, after a term of instability that will allow the arbitrary firing of thousands of public employees, future authorities will be forbidden to appoint close aides in the ministries and agencies.

The people must know that the current regime has taken steps to ensure the personnel in the General Secretariat of Government will not be dismissed from their posts. This affects personnel that have politically served the ideology of the current regime in the national secretariats of women, youth, and labor-union affairs. Incredible as it may seem, the president of the Republic and his ministers will not be able to appoint either their cabinet chiefs or private secretaries. We believe in the professional career of the public employee and we will respect it, but such an attitude should not prohibit one from counting on the direct and natural cooperation of trustworthy aides whose permanence in public service is conditioned to that of their chiefs.

Our observations are not belated, as Minister Caceres has stated. They have been made in various speeches and declarations and were included in our government program, which was not only released to the people but was accepted by the great majority who elected Patricio Aylwin as their president.

During his electoral campaign, President-elect Aylwin never made impossible promises nor engaged in irresponsible demagoguery. Quite the contrary, the entire country is aware of his frankness and consistency in stating that the government he will preside over will not be able to immediately solve the problems, neglect, and shortages that affect a large sector of Chilean society.

President-elect Aylwin has voiced his desire to be the president of all Chileans. With this spirit of national reconciliation he has asked his advisers to obtain all the necessary information and data from the present government. We appreciate the formal and courteous cooperation of the outgoing government. We have thus resumed civilized procedures which for many years characterized our republican and democratic history and which should never have been interrupted.

For the time being we are not going to evaluate the data we have received. President Aylwin will report on the state of the country at an appropriate time. We do not want to stir up debate nor make early judgements. What we really want is to overcome the gaps that have divided the Chilean people and to restore the possibility of dialogue among Chileans; a dialogue that allows the possibility of disagreement but also of agreement.

This has been our spirit, but it must not be mistaken for submission or weakness.

We therefore wish to point out that it is highly inconvenient that the outgoing government, in exercising its right to legislate, is doing so in terms that oppose the criteria of the future government which is backed by the great majority of the people.

Chile chose a path in October 1988. To paraphrase a prophet, Chileans then became prisoners of their hope. To fulfill this hope for a fatherland of solidarity and justness for all, Patricio Aylwin and those of us who will have the honor of participating in his government will expend our utmost efforts and serve with deep loyalty. Thank you very much. Good evening.

PDC Leader's Reaction

PY0302034090 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text]Christian Democratic Party [PDC] President Andres Zaldivar has described as absolutely false the statements of Interior Minister Carlos Caceres that were broadcast over a voluntary radio and television network yesterday afternoon.

The PDC president strongly rejected the remarks made by Interior Minister Carlos Caceres, who said that the current government is delivering to the future authorities a country in superb condition.

Andres Zaldivar, a senator-elect for Santiago, pointed out that he is making this criticism as PDC president and that his criticism invites reflection about the fallacies to which the country was exposed yesterday by the current interior minister.

Zaldivar said it is not true that the opposition coalition and the future government are exaggerating the hindrances and problems prevailing in the country they will inherit.

Chile, Zaldivar said, is far from having a sound economy and meeting the basic requirements for social justice, and this cannot be concealed.

[Begin Zaldivar recording] I think it would have been better for the interior minister not to give the explanation that he gave yesterday because it will force us to give an explanation to expose the truth to the country.

The plain truth is that we are not inheriting a booming economy, a country with its economy perfectly balanced, and a country with its social problems resolved.

On the contrary, the country we will inherit [changes thought].... We are inheriting a country with its economy in a worrisome state for the reasons I have mentioned before. This will force the new government to take measures to prevent the economy from entering a crisis.

We will inherit a country with a very serious social situation that must be solved. I think it would have been preferrable not to engage in this controversy.

Nevertheless, as the minister has given this explanation, I, as PDC president, am forced to make these initial remarks; remarks that we will surely expand within the next few days. [end recording]

The PDC president gave examples in the economy where a growing inflation rate could reach 35 percent this year. This inflation rate is the result of the economic policy implemented by the current government and not by the future authorities. It is also the result of an overheated economy that, in addition to distributing income in a manner unfair to the poorest, maintains an extremely high real interest rate—more than 20 percent. This is too high for what is being described as an economy without problems.

There are also problems in the health sector, a shortage of 300,000 houses, and problems in the education sector, Zaldivar said.

The university (?rectors) and delegates have admitted that university budgets are substantially lower than those allocated to the universities last year, Zaldivar said.

There is also the problem of the (?former) budget and the foreign debt prepayments, exposing the copper stabilization fund.

On this and on much more we will respond to the country and to Minister Caceres within the next few days.

Therefore, Zaldivar said, I hope that the opposition coalition will take a stand and that President-elect Patricio Aylwin himself will make a sharp declaration regarding the fallacies that Interior Minister Carlos Caceres exposed yesterday.

U.S. Reportedly To Stop Spare Helicopter Parts

PY0202124890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The U.S. Government has decided to suspend the sale of spare parts for U.S.-made helicopters that have been purchased by the Chilean Army. The news was reported in London by JANES DEFENSE WEEKLY, the specialized magazine, which stated that the Washington Department of State was informed that the Macdonald Douglas Company had delivered five model 530/F helicopters to the Chilean Army. According to the McDonnell Douglas Company executives, they thought the helicopters would be used for fishery support work.

It has been learned, however, the British magazine article states, that the Chilean Army uses the helicopters on search and rescue operations. As a result, the U.S. Department of State has decided to implement the Kennedy Amendment and order the McDonell Douglas Company to suspend the sale of spare parts for the five 530/F helicopters.

'Third Republic Party' Formed; Officials Named

PY0302120190 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The official gazette today published a report on the formation of the Third Republic Party [Partido Tercera Republica] of Chile. The party will use PTR as its acronym and its banner will carry the phrase "A Way Ahead" [un camino hacia adelante]. The PTR symbol will be an expanded and styled number three with a red and blue beret.

The members of the provisional central directorate are: Francisco Javier Iturriaga Aste, president; Leonardo Rivera Reyes, secretary general; and (Juan Ernesto Meza Mascallou), treasurer.

As for its goal and principles, this political party proposes to form cadres of patriotic Chileans to view the country's real future following the pattern of a third republic capable of ensuring the people's happiness. This will be achieved through a technological, intellectual, and sociopolitical development that will not allow privileged or neglected groups.

The party will seek to overcome the detrimental divisions among Chileans, to create a civic-social organization, and to promote ideas that will enhance well-being and democracy.

Central Bank Releases Foreign Debt Figures

PY0302200390 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] As of 31 December 1989, Chile's total foreign debt had decreased by $1.388 billion to a total of $16.250 billion. In 1988, Chile's total foreign debt was $17.638 billion.

This information was disclosed by the Chilean Central Bank, and the figure includes the medium- and long-term foreign commitments, as well as the short-term foreign debt.

The Central Bank's debt to the IMF totaled $1.268 billion as of 31 December 1989. This represents a minor increase compared to the debt in November.

The medium- and long-term foreign debt totaled $13.277 billion of which $10.124 billion belongs to the public sector and $3.153 billion belongs to the private sector.

Short-term commitments as of 31 December 1989 totaled $2.973 billion of which $1.901 billion belongs to the public sector and $1.072 belongs to the private sector.

Reports Trade Surplus, Reserves

PY0402010690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Summary] A Central Bank report notes that Chile's trade balance surplus totaled about $1.6 billion in 1989. Exports totaled $8.0803 billion and imports totaled $6.4814 billion.

The report adds that by the end of 1989 Chile's international assets totaled $4.215 billion, of which $2.948 billion are international reserves.

Colombia

DEA Planes Said Authorized To Overfly Country

PA0202143690 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1210 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota—The Colombian Government has reportedly given its authorization permitting airplanes of the United States' Drug Enforcement Agency [DEA] to fly over our national territory, particularly the eastern region. The Colombian Government's authorization would reportedly be in effect between 31 January and 28 February, given U.S. President George Bush's arrival in the country on 15 February to participate in an antidrug summit in Cartagena.

Two DEA airplanes have flown over various areas of our national territory, but they have not been detected by the radar at the Bogota and Barranquilla Airports. The pilots conduct their operations at low altitudes to avoid being detected, it was reported by Eldorado Airport spokesmen. The DEA is using the Colombian Government's authorization to detect actions linked with drug trafficking, it was reported.

Foreign Ministry Protests

PA0302005690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2356 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Report by Gloria Congote]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes today confirmed that a U.S. airplane violated Colombian airspace and that our government has filed a diplomatic protest with the U.S. Government. The incident was not a minor one. The U.S. Hercules that on 24 January was flying the same route of an Avianca plane loaded with passengers near Barranquilla could have caused an air tragedy worse than the recent Avianca plane wreck in New York.

[Begin Londono recording] The Civil Aeronautics authorities reported this incident a few days ago. We have already protested to the U.S. Embassy about this situation which violates the systems and procedures established in Colombia concerning flight altitude, proximity, and so on, and other technicalities with which I am not familiar. [end recording]

The U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules was detected by the radar of the Barranquilla control tower. The air controller immediately contacted Captain Edgar Cabalasi, who was piloting a 727 Avianca plane with 153 passengers on board, and told him to be very careful as he had detected something on the radar.

[Begin unidentified air controller recording] I detected it and told him: This is Barranquilla. There is a Hercules, like the ones the United States has just donated to the Colombian Air Force [FAC]. He then notified an A-37, an Air Force reconnaissance plane. I was later told the plane had been intercepted and that it was a U.S. plane. [end recording]

The Barranquilla control tower then asked the strange plane to identify itself. However, the U.S. plane maintained silence and continued flying. An FAC plane was then sent to intercept the plane. An air controller told this newscast: That Avianca plane was saved by two things. One, the Barranquilla control tower's timely notification, and two, God Almighty.

Ministers Deny Knowledge

PA0302014290 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2358 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Report by Gloria Congote—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The defense, government, and foreign ministers today denied any knowledge of DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] planes in Colombian territory. However, as we said last night, the fact is that those planes are flying, and without Colombian radar being able to detect them.

This newscast has reported that two DEA planes, Commander type, have been flying over Colombian territory with the authorization of the government and the aeronautical authorities, with the mission of making reconnaissance flights over national territory. However, the most important ministers of President Barco's cabinet said today they had no knowledge of those planes being in Colombia.

[Foreign Minister Julio Londono] "It is not the responsibility of the Foreign Ministry to authorize military planes to fly over national territory or to authorize the entry of warships into our territorial waters. I would rather say this should be turned over to the Defense Ministry."

[Defense Minister General Oscar Botero] "We would have to speak with the chief of Civil Aeronautics, because, after all, that is the department that handles all aeronautics issues."

[Government Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds] "I have no information on the issue, so therefore any information I could give you in this respect would not be based on specific information as I only know what I read today in the newspapers."

The facts are:

1. Civil Aeronautics has authorized the flights of the Commander planes and allows them to make fuel stops at the country's airports. Why do the ministers not know about this authorization?

2. The flights are authorized 31 January-28 February. Why precisely at the time President Bush will come to Colombia?

3. The authorization by Civil Aeronautics states that the U.S. Embassy will pay the expenses incurred by the planes. Is this a government-to-government secret agreement? If it is not a secret agreement, why then do the ministers not know anything about it?

4. The planes are flying over areas such as the Eastern Plains at less than 20,000 feet, which makes it impossible to detect them on the only two sets of radar operating in Colombia. Why are they flying at altitudes that cannot be detected by air controllers? Are they carrying out a secret mission? If this is not the case, why are they not controlled as all other aircrafts flying over Colombian territory are controlled?

Peruvian President Will Attend Antidrug Summit

PA0202165090 Paris AFP in Spanish 1620 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 2 Feb (AFP)—A Colombian Presidency spokesman informed AFP today that Peruvian President Alan Garcia will attend the antidrug summit on 15 February in Cartagena, a Caribbean resort. The meeting will also be attended by the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, and the United States.

"Everything has been straightened out and President Garcia has decided to attend," said the source who asked not to be identified.

Garcia had announced on 20 December that he would not go to Cartagena in protest over the invasion of Panama by U.S. troops.

Host president Virgilio Barco—the spokesman said—spoke with Garcia by telephone and convinced him to attend the meeting in Cartagena where strict security measures are being implemented to protect the visitors.

Government, Army Guarantee Safety of Elections

PA0302195390 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1810 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The government will implement the Democracy Plan on 11 March when municipal elections will be held for mayors and for voting on a plebiscite. Government and military forces will guarantee security, impartiality, and freedom during the elections. The Army, Navy, Air Force, police, and DAS [Administrative Department of Security] will provide 120,000 men for the operation.

[Begin Defense Minister Oscar Botero recording] The plan contemplates the various problems that could emerge and, of course, the problems that could be created by the Army of National Liberation, which has openly threatened to disrupt the elections. That is why we have concentrated larger numbers of troops in areas which have been threatened by the subversive groups who are planning to hinder the electoral process. [end recording]

The government also disclosed the Democracy Plan that will be implemented on 27 May for the presidential elections.

FARC Proposes Election Truce

PA0302145590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1033 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 2 Feb (EFE)—The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group today proposed to President Virgilio Barco's government a truce during the legislative and presidential elections scheduled for 11 March and 27 May respectively.

The FARC declared a cease-fire in a letter sent to a group of former presidents, namely Liberals Carlos LLeras Restrepo, Alfonso Lopez, and Julio Cesar Turbay; and Social Conservatives Misael Pastrana and Belisario Betancur.

"Through your mediation we are proposing to the Virgilio Barco government a cease-fire so the March elections, the plebiscite, and the May presidential elections may take place in a peaceful atmosphere," FARC says in its message.

The largest and oldest guerrilla group in Colombia—with more than 40 years of armed struggle—adds that the truce, in addition to allowing elections in a peaceful atmosphere, should also ensure "democratic guarantees."

The FARC leaders also ask "the eminent recipients of this proposal to study what is needed for a new reconciliation and peace process for the Colombian family."

The message was signed by top FARC leader Manuel Marulanda, known as "Tirofijo", and Jacomo Arenas, a.k.a. "Luis Morantes," one of the "theorists" of the guerrillas' general staff.

Registrar on Election Laws

PA0402200890 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota—National Civil Registrar Jaime Serrano Rueda has issued a reminder about the contents of electoral laws, noting that only the national government is empowered to postpone elections in places in which there are no guarantees. He stressed, however, that no member of the Executive Branch has yet stated that the elections cannot be held.

We, at the registry, are dutybound to hold elections in places where they have not been postponed by the government. People must not forget that in each department the governor is the one who is legally empowered to make a decision about postponing the elections if there is any public disturbance and he can prove it, Serrano said in a conversation with Radio Cadena Nacional.

When there are no guarantees that the citizens will be able to vote freely, the government can suspend the elections. This does not mean that there will not be elections, but that they are being postponed. This is what the laws in effect say, the registrar explained.

Arboledas Mayor 'Presumably' Killed by ELN

PA0302231990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2142 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 3 Feb (DPA)—According to official reports, Pedro Hernandez Clavijo, mayor of the Colombian township of Arboledas in the northern department of Santander, was killed today by unidentified persons, presumably members of the guerrilla Army of National Liberation (ELN).

According to authorities, the mayor was taken out of an establishment by heavily armed men, who gunned him down in the middle of the street.

Several rebel columns of the ELN, which announced it will sabotage the parliamentary and presidential elections this year, are active in the vicinity of Arboledas, 340 km northeast of Bogota.

Army Seizes Money on Rodriguez Gacha Property

PA0402143290 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota—The Army confiscated over 1.1 billion pesos during a raid in the last few hours on the Freddy I ranch of the late drug lord Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha. General Ramon Eduardo Niebles, commander of the 13th Brigade, said the money was found hidden with a cache that was discovered during a search and occupation operation by the Army on one of Rodriguez Gacha's properties. Gen Niebles added that the amount found represents $2.465 million.

In addition, the high-ranking officer recalled that in another cache found at Hacienda Chiguagua in Pacho, Cundinamarca Department, the 13th Brigade also confiscated $5.5 million.

The Freddy I ranch is located in La Union, jurisdiction of Guaduas Municipality, in Cundinamarca Department.

Police Discover 21 Bodies Throughout Country

PA0402150090 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota—A total of 21 bodies have been found shot and gagged during the last few hours in Antioquia, Cundinamarca, and Boyaca Departments, authorities have reported.

According to the official report, authorities found the bodies of six men and one woman in the rural area of Envigado Municipality, in southern Antioquia. The bodies were tied and bullet-riddled. In addition, members of the F-2 unit of the National Police found the bodies of seven young people who showed signs of torture in a ravine on km 60 of the highway from Bogota to Villavicencio.

In Piedra Gorda, on the highway between Tunja and Villa de Leiva, in Boyaca Department, the police discovered the bullet-riddled bodies of two middle-aged men. On 2 February, the bodies of three men and two women with bullet wounds and no identity documents were found near the area of La Cita, north of Bogota.

The authorities believe these crimes are the result of a war among criminal gangs, but there are no clues yet on the motives or identity of the killers.

Boyaca Killings Believed Tied to Emerald War

PA0402151390 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Medellin—The killing of seven people on 3 February is believed to be connected to a war among groups of emerald diggers in Boyaca Department. The bodies were found on the road to Las Palmas, Envigado Municipality.

The possibility was suggested by official sources after it was learned that two natives among the victims, Amalia Rubiano and Jose Parra, of Zipaquira and Bogota, respectively, were for several years connected with the emerald business in Boyaca Department.

Seven young people were found dead. They had been gagged with bandage tape, their hands and feet bound, and their heads and backs bore numerous bullet wounds inflicted by an automatic weapon.

Journalist Killed by 2 Men in Barrancabermeja

PA0402170690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1604 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 4 Feb (DPA)—It was officially reported today that Colombian journalist Cayetano Dominguez was murdered by two unidentified men who shot him in Barrancabermeja in eastern Colombia.

Authorized spokesmen revealed that the 56-year-old Dominguez, director of a radio station of the Caracol network, was shot several times last night while near one of the station's transmitters.

Dominguez was vice president of the Association of Colombian Journalists in Santander Department and is the first Colombian journalist to be killed this year.

According to reports from the Association of Colombian Journalists, 12 journalists were shot to death in 1989, many of them in terrorist actions committed by the criminal drug-trafficking mafias.

Paraguay

Colorado Party Marks First Anniversary of Coup

PY0302225890

[Editorial Report] Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish at 2200 GMT on 3 February begins to broadcast live from the Colorado Party headquarters in Asuncion a ceremony marking the first anniversary of Paraguay's 1989 coup. The national anthem is played, and at 2203 GMT Blas N. Riquelme, third vice president of the Colorado Party Executive Board and chairman of the committee that organized the event, begins to speak. Riquelme refers to the coup and says the Colorado Party supported it to regain the party's historical role. He refers to former President Stroessner's "dictatorship" and "totalitarianism" and says the coup restored the country's identity. The Armed Forces, he says, have now renewed themselves.

Although it is not possible to change everything in a year, says Riquelme, the government's attitude has changed. The problems of land and housing, he says, are not automatically solved. Changes are required, according to Riquelme, and democracy demands the courage to progress. He ends by calling for a salute for the president and by asserting that all Paraguayans supported the coup he led.

At 2219 GMT Riquelme ends his speech, and Juan Ramon Chaves, president of the Colorado Party Executive Board, begins to speak. Chaves mentions that Paraguayan President Rodriquez is present and calls him a "patriot," a "good soldier," and a "Colorado by tradition." He says the coup freed the Colorado Party from the arrogance of the former regime and the people from fear. Everyone, according to Chaves, wanted to clean up the country. He then reads the proclamation made by Rodriquez to announce the coup. He points out that Rodriquez began his rule by calling elections and that all political parties participated. He speaks of unity of Paraguayans, who, though they sometimes disagree, are now all pursuing the highest goals. The government, he says, is now working on laws to consolidate democracy, and the Armed Forces are working to guarantee democratic institutions. He promises the Colorado Party will work with the president to destroy future tyrannies.

Chaves' speech ends at 2236 GMT, and the broadcast immediately ends.

Police Deployed To Prevent PLRA Demonstration

PY0402025690 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 3 Feb 90 p 10

[Excerpt] At least 200 policemen were deployed today to prevent the demonstration that the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] was planning to hold in downtown Asuncion. Equipped with shields, truncheons, gas masks, and teargas canisters, and backed up by several fire trucks, the policemen assembled in a multiline cordon along Mariscal Estigarribia Street between Mexico and Caballero Streets to prevent the approximately 500 PLRA members, who gathered at Plaza Uruguaya at approximately 0930, from marching.

The Interior Ministry had not authorized the march, which was supposed to end at the National Heroes Memorial with a political rally. Police Chief General Francisco Sanchez arrived at the place where the PLRA members had gathered and explained to PLRA leader Domingo Laino the reasons for the display of police force. "There is a ministerial resolution that bans demonstrations in downtown Asuncion and this resolution must be respected," Sanchez said. He added that the partially approved draft law that authorizes marches and rallies on holidays "is not in force yet."

Laino said that "this position is contrary to the Constitution and the law. The ministerial resolution is unconstitutional." In the end, Sanchez offered guarantees for the rally to be held at Plaza Uruguaya and for "a group of people, the leaders, for example, to go to the National Heroes Memorial to lay a wreath." [passage omitted]

Rodriguez Affirms Commitment To Improve Democracy

PY0402023690 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 2 Feb 90 pp 12, 13

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic, General Andres Rodriguez, this morning confirmed his commitment and intention "to improve democracy and make the benefits of social justice available to the Paraguayan people." He received the greetings of high-ranking officials of the Lopez Palace on the first anniversary of the revolutionary quest.

In this regard and in response to the greetings and recognition of the presidential palace members and

officials, the head of state invoked the name of God, asking for God's help and blessing to continue working for the good of the country.

In his briefing, the head of state mentioned the victory of freedom, the intention "to improve democracy and to make available to the Paraguayan people the benefits of social justice, a task that began on 3 February 1989."

The president made these remarks in response to the greetings of his closest civilian and military household aides.

Dr. Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, who acted as spokesman for the group, mentioned the decision and action of that moment that brought us "liberty and allows us to live in democracy." He also paid homage to those who surrendered their lives in the quest to achieve this freedom.

In response to the remarks made by Gonzalez Casabianca, the head of state remembered those who died last year and, paying homage to them, said that today must be a day of "reflection in the search for the supreme goal of national unity."

The head of state emphasized the change it represented for the country to have taken "the all-important step of putting an end to an oppressive regime to pursue other goals, such as living in peace and harmony, with tolerance and respect prevailing among all Paraguayans."

In conclusion, President Rodriguez said that quest already belongs to the past and that now is the time to live the present, looking to the future and improving the democratic institutions and the situation of the Paraguayan people every day. [passage omitted]

IMF Team Reportedly Meets Economic Officials

PY0302222090 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Feb 90 p 14

[Text] The IMF technical team that is working in our country has reportedly finished collecting the main data on our economy and has already begun talks with the executive branch's economic team.

Despite the fact that this could not be confirmed with official sources, this newspapers' reporters were surprised that an unusual meeting of economic authorities took place yesterday afternoon and early evening at the headquarters of the Central Bank.

The meeting began after a Council of the State meeting. Despite the fact that reporters were not allowed in the Central Bank, they observed the following persons entering: Finance Minister Enzo Debernardi (head of the economic team), Industry and Commerce Minister Antonio Zuccolillo Moscarda, Agriculture and Livestock Minister Hernando Bertoni, Central Bank President Crispiniano Sandoval, National Development Bank President Jose Enrique Paez, and Technical Planning Secretary Federico Mandelburger.

According to economic circles, the IMF team has indicated that it is happy with the measures that have been adopted by the government and with the government's predictions for the fiscal sector. However, the IMF is not in complete agreement with the monetary policy, and it will therefore recommend new measures and mechanisms to obtain the desired financial balance.

The IMF will also reportedly recommend that some money-losing state enterprises—such as the National Cement Industry, ACEPAR [Paraguayan Steel, Inc.], Paraguayan Airlines, the National Railway System, and the National Merchant Fleet—be sold to the private sector.

The IMF delegation will continue to meet with local economic authorities during the following days until an agreement is reached that will serve as the basis of our country's upcoming negotiations with the Paris Club. During these negotiations, the government will seek to reduce the $700-million debt that it owes to several of the club's members.

The following options will reportedly be discussed: a reduction or annulment of a part of the commitment (debts considered illegal because they were not approved by Congress), and extension of the deadlines for several years, or an improvement in the interest rates that are being paid.

Central Bank President Views Dollar Rate Hike

PY0302202690 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 1 Feb 90 p 11

[Text] "There has obviously been speculation in this," Central Bank President Crispiniano Sandoval said about the dollar exchange rate's climb to an unusual high rate: 1,300 guaranies to the dollar. "It should have not climbed to that level," he added.

He said: "No operation was made on 30 January at 1,300 guaranies to a dollar, although some boards showed that rate. Transactions were made at from 1,272 to 1,282 guaranies to the dollar on that date."

He added that "there is a strong dollar 'flight' to Argentina and Brazil, where the dollar is in great demand and where it pays good profits."

The Central Bank president said that despite everything, the dollar exchange rate will continue dropping, like it did last week, until it reaches a normal level.

He said the Central Bank is closely following the dollar rate by "purchasing and selling dollars according to the circumstances," and by placing in the banks "small additional amounts of dollars to satisfy the peak dollar demands that may occur."

He stated that currently the normal rate for the dollar should hover at approximately 1,240 guaranies.

When he was reminded that this year's budget was drafted with the dollar set at an average of 1,300 guaranies, Sandoval stated that it was very difficult to make a long-term estimate (one year) in such a vulnerable market as ours.

He expressed his optimism that the relation between the guarani and the dollar will recover its stability in 1990, indicating that the current variations are a result of speculative factors.

Rodriguez To Spend 1 Day at Aylwin Inauguration

PY0302142790 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 3 Feb 90 p 12

[Text] Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana stated on 2 February that President Andres Rodriguez will only be in Santiago for one day on 11 March for the inauguration of President-elect Patricio Aylwin, and he indicated that our chief of state will not stay over for the 12 March summit of American heads of state.

Argana noted that a visit to our country by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle and the fact that Rodriguez will also be attending the inaugural ceremonies for Brazil's Collor de Mello are the reasons behind the brief stay in Chile.

The foreign minister stated that "the Santiago summit is rather curious in the way it has been scheduled. The agenda indicates that the American presidents are going to stay in Santiago for 4 days, but today, with the dynamics of human nature, the presidents' workload, and the fact that there will be several inaugurations, I do not believe that many presidents will stay that long."

Peru

Garcia Will Attend Cartagena Antidrug Summit

PY0302011290 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0010 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Interview with President Alan Garcia by unidentified reporter in front of Government House in Lima on 2 February—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Mr President, does U.S. President George Bush's announcement that he will withdraw U.S. troops from Panama long before the end of February mean you will attend the Cartagena summit?

[Garcia] I believe this commitment, this offer he made to the world at large, has removed one of the basic obstacles to our participation in the Cartagena summit. Peru had advocated, negotiated for, and arranged this summit to seek an agreement on a common position in the struggle against drug traffic. Then came the invasion of Panama and we believed that as long as there were invading troops, or as long as there was no concrete offer to withdraw them, it would be difficult to sit down for a cordial talk or an honorable agreement.

The U.S. President has made an offer to the U.S. Congress and to the world at large that before February-...[changes thought] before the end of February, all the troops will be withdrawn. I believe that this has removed one of the basic obstacles and we will be able to go to Cartagena.

[Reporter] However, the meeting will take place on 15 February, and you will be at the meeting while the troops will still be in Panama, or at least before the deadline for their withdrawal.

[Garcia] I have no reasons to doubt a formal commitment undertaken by President Bush and his administration that long before the end of February—as he has said—all the invading troops will be withdrawn from Panama. In light of this announcement and taking into account the enormous significance that drug trafficking, drug consumption, and the illegal production of coca leaves has for the United States and for Latin America, and in the light of the seriousness of these issues, I do believe we can decide to participate and submit proposals making it possible to conduct effective and responsible actions to deal with this problem.

[Reporter] Speaking about drug trafficking, Mr. President, high-ranking U.S. Department of State officials have said that at the Cartagena summit they will propose sending U.S. troops to Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia to fight drug trafficking. As far as Peru is concerned, what is the opinion of your administration?

[Garcia] First, we do not believe it is either necessary or useful to have foreign, U.S., troops come to our country. In the second place, this can hardly be a unilateral decision of the United States. We are going to Cartagena because we believe this is a chance to devise a new approach to the issue of drug trafficking and drug consumption in the world. It is our understanding that the United States is finally prepared to look at this problem from a new angle.

First of all, demand in the United States is the cause of this problem. Millions and millions of consumers paying high prices for cocaine cause the best land in Latin America to be used for illegal coca growing. Second, we know that there is no military or police solution to this problem. It is not a question of giving the Colombian, Peruvian, and Bolivian Governments a few helicopters and machineguns. The idea is to establish direct commercial links with the peasants of Huallaga Valley, Chapare, and Santa Cruz de la Sierra in Bolivia. They are the ones who are producing coca because the price of coffee went down 50 percent this year and the price of cocoa has also gone down. Thus, the only harvest that goes up in price is the coca leaves or the cocaine. Under these conditions the only responsible and scientific way to struggle against the production of coca leaves is by improving the price of the other products.

The United States has in hand the means to stop the production of coca leaves on hundreds of thousands of hectares in Latin America. How can it do this? First, by

improving the price of the coffee and cocoa that is produced in the Huallaga Valley. Second, by facilitating the sale of those staples to the United States and by making it possible to process coffee and cocoa beans into instant coffee and chocolate bars that can be shipped by air. Only thus will we be able to give the peasants an option and to bring a revolution to that region, which now produces coca leaves because they are the only product that brings in constantly increasing prices. This is the main thing.

In addition to this, military and police measures may be taken, but to implement them we have our Latin American armies and police forces. Police and military measures come second after the proposal for economic replacement, which is the the one we are advocating.

[Reporter] In any case, is that sort of U.S. aid out of the question?

[Garcia] We do not want direct intervention. We do accept assistance—airborne navigational and observation equipment—but the actual handling of the antidrug struggle is up to the sovereign Latin American nations. We believe—and this is our only reason for going to Cartagena—that a new economic approach to this issue must be devised. In the second place, we believe that this must be done jointly. No unilateral measures will be allowed. We can do everything, provided it comes out of an honorable democratic agreement among the countries. This is the main thing.

[Reporter] The very same Department of State officials take it for granted that your government will not agree to a U.S. military intervention in the Huallaga Valley. However, they also believe that the Democratic Front will be the next administration and intervention will be more feasible then. What do you think?

[Garcia] Well, I disagree with Vargas Llosa's Democratic Front on may subjects, but I refuse to believe that they will allow foreign troops into the country. I am a good political adversary and I never resort to dirty tricks. I do not believe that Fernando Belaunde, a former Peruvian president; that Bedoya Reyes, a Peruvian political leader; or that Vargas Llosa, who is an enlightened man; could allow, for whatever reason, foreign troops on Peruvian soil. To do it would be tantamount to corrupting the role of the state and of our Armed Forces by scorning, ignoring, and even insulting them. I am sure they will not allow this to happen. I also believe that the U.S. officials who think as you indicated are greatly mistaken. We certainly have our right wing and our conservatives here, but I do not believe they are traitors to the fatherland. [passage omitted]

More on Attendance

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[Text] Lima, 2 Feb (EFE)—Peruvian President Alan Garcia today announced in Lima he will attend the antidrug "summit" with his Bolivian, Colombian, and U.S. counterparts that will be held on 15 February in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. Alan Garcia had not committed himself to attending the summit with Jaime Paz Zamora (Bolivia), Virgilio Barco (Colombia), and George Bush (United States) since 20 December when U.S. troops invaded Panama, at which time he said his presence would be contingent upon the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panamanian territory.

The Peruvian president said at a news conference at the Government Palace that he changed his stance with regard to the "summit," the date of which was set in October 1989, following a meeting with Paz Zamora and Barco in the southern Peruvian city of Ica after U.S. President Bush announced in his State of the Union Address that 13,000 U.S. troops will be withdrawn from Panama before the end of February.

"I have faith in that commitment. The offer Bush made before the world removes one of the basic obstacles keeping us from going to Cartagena," Alan Garcia noted. He also recalled it was Peru that "promoted, encouraged, and succeeded" in getting the "summit" to reach common-criteria measures against drug traffficking and that the invasion of Panama came later. And so he believed that "as long as the invading soldiers were in place and no specific withdrawal offer had been made, it was very difficult to discuss or reach an agreement in a cordial and dignified manner. "The U.S. President has promised the world and the U.S. Congress that all the soldiers will be withdrawn before the end of February. I think that removes one of the most basic obstacles and we will now be able to attend the meeting in Cartagena," the Peruvian president said.

Garcia later said there is no reason for him to doubt President Bush and his administration's "formal commitment" that the troops will be completely withdrawn from Panama before the end of February.

"In view of that announcement and weighing the enormous importance of drug trafficking, drug consumption, and the illegal production of coca leaves in the United States and Latin America, I think we can make the decision to participate; taking proposals that will permit a common, definite, and responsible action against this problem," Alan Garcia said.

The Peruvian president maintained a posture that was very critical of the United States after its military invasion of Panama, which, according to the United States, was aimed at destroying the regime of ousted General Manuel Antonio Noriega and protecting U.S. citizens living there.

After the military occupation, one of the first actions by Peru was to withdraw its ambassador from Washington until the U.S. troops left Panama.

Congressmen Oppose Presence of U.S. Marines

PY0202222090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Interview with United Left Deputy Cesar Barrera Bazan and Senate President Humberto Carranza Piedra by Edin Campos at the National Congress; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Campos] In light of proposals, principally from U.S. sectors, requesting the presence of U.S. Marines in Alto Huallaga to fight drug trafficking, I have an interview with Deputy Cesar Barrera Bazan. Do you believe it is possible the U.S. Government will request the presence of a military force to fight drug trafficking?

[Barrera] I believe this is unacceptable. It cannot be morally or politically accepted. It is not practical. It would be an absurd concession of our sovereignty, independence, and ability as Peruvians to choose our own destiny. I would like to emphasize the following: The United States has the obligation to preach by example. It should put into practice any Draconian law it proposes for other countries to fight drug trafficking. Such a law should be put into practice by the United States. But on the contrary, what the U.S. Government does in its own country is help the United States become the largest drug market in the world. This encourages the production of narcotics and illegal drug traffic.

[Campos] Do you think the proposal made by our Ambassador Cesar Atala, that the United States should buy our entire coca crop, can be effective?

[Barrera] I believe so, because the U.S. Government would spend less than its alleged aid, in which I do not put much faith. The United States should close its drug market by buying the coca production and providing credits for the replacement of coca, not by intervening in our country with military force. U.S. military intervention would spread into all national issues. In other words, the United States would end up intervening not only in drug trafficking—which is a problem that country has not been able to solve in other countries—but also in the social, economic, and political affairs of our country. As Peruvians we definitely cannot allow that; we cannot allow any foreign military or political force in our country. The dignity and sovereignty of the country cannot be negotiated under any circumstance.

[Campos] Deputy Barrera, thank you very much for your comments. [passage omitted] We are going to talk with the president of the Senate, who has just made a 12-day visit to Japan where he obtained important credits for Peru. He is a very important man and we are going to discuss several issues. For example, sectors of the ruling faction and of the opposition here in Congress have reacted to the possible presence of U.S. Marines in Alto Huallaga. Do you believe that presence is possible?

[Carranza] Let me first greet the audience of Channel Seven. As you said, I have just returned from Japan where I held important meetings with the prime minister and the Senate president who expressed support for the activities of our Ambassador Luis Macchiavello to obtain credits for our country.

Regarding the possible presence of U.S. Marines in our country, I would like to say I fully reject any military intervention in our country. We have a capable Armed Forces with technical qualifications and the necessary training; I thefore believe the U.S. presence is not necessary.

[Campos] Is everything ready for the special session of Congress to begin on 5 February?

[Carranza] We are coordinating our actions for the two-day congressional session with the president of the Chamber of Deputies, with members of the APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] congressional bloc, and with several senators and deputies. [passage omitted]

IU Presidential Candidate on Drugs, Economy

PY0402024690 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Interview with United Left, IU, presidential candidate Henry Peace by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] How long will it take for the IU to stabilize the nation's economy?

[Peace] It is up to the experts to make a precise estimate although I am sure they, too, will disagree on the time needed. I am sure it will take at least a couple of years. The essential thing, however, is from the very first day to put an end to corruption; to the disorderly handling of the economy. It is necessary to bring discipline to state affairs and make everyone pay their taxes and obey general economic guidelines. Our first steps will be directed toward making it possible to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

[Reporter] As far as immediate measures are concerned, will prices be adjusted to a realistic level?

[Peace] Obviously, there are prices that must be adjusted, but we should not forget that the l.d has been kept on salaries and wages for a lomg time.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of President Garcia's decision to travel to Cartagena to participate in the antidrug summit?

[Peace] We must tell the world at large that the drug-trafficking problem will not be resolved by invading us. The only way to resolve it is through an economic approach. I have made an economic proposal, namely that the United States and the other countries that suffer from drug trafficking and spend a lot of money fighting it should spend part of that money to purchase the entire

coca crop for five years. The three coca-producing countries should then get together and devise an extensive development plan for the areas that produce coca leaves; replacing coca with other crops, establishing agroindustrial enterprises, and generating exports at international prices. This is the only way out of the problem. To coerce peasants and force them to replace their crops and destroy the environment will not only fail to produce positive results but will also set the nation on fire. We must defend the sovereignty of our country.

FRENATRACA Candidate's Electoral Platform

PY0402191990 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Roger Caceres Velasquez, presidential candidate of the National Front of Workers and Peasants [FRENATRACA], today announced the list of congressional candidates who will run with him in the presidential elections. Caceres also outlined the main points of his economic plan.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What is the FRENATRACA's government plan for the 1990-1995 presidential term?

[Caceres] This plan can be summarized in five aspects: first, the quest for normalcy and the eradication of the violence, hunger and frustration that plague Peru; second, a reform of the state to make it and its institutions more efficient and dynamic; third, to generate social and economic growth in Peru as quickly as possible; fourth, to manage mechanisms of public order and diplomacy to support Peru's development; and finally, to work for the fulfillment of the Peruvian people. These five principles summarize our political program.

[Reporter] Why do you say you are the fourth-strongest political group in Peru?

[Caceres] We won in six provinces in the municipal and regional elections held last November, while Mr Barrantes' United Left had no victories at the national level. [end recording]

Several Dead in Navy Clash With Terrorists

PY0202131690 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Report by Roger Palomino Mogollon from Pucallpa]

[Text] In a violent clash between Navy personnel stationed in the Ucayali Region and alleged terrorists, three Marines were burned to death while four others were seriously injured during a shootout.

According to some rumors, a Marine patrol raided a terrorist hideout where they killed more than 20 terrorists and injured many more. According to other rumors, the military patrol was ambushed by terrorists who used grenades and rocket-launching rifles in their attack on the Marines' vehicle, in which the three Marines who were burned to death were riding.

The surprise attack occurred yesterday afternoon at kilometer 86 of the Federico Bazadre Road, some 5 km from the path that leads to Puerto Inca, Guanuco Department. The bodies and the seriously injured Marines were evacuated yesterday afternoon. The injured Marines have been identified as Javier Moran Zarango, and Franco Zandoval Jiraldo, who are both 19 years old; Cesar Vargas Leon, 32; and Rubem Calderon Torcoco, 29.

It has also been reported the Navy seized weapons and ammunition that were in the possession of the terrorists. Two of the injured Marines were taken to Lima last night.

Army Arrests Terrorists, Seizes Weapons

PY0202142690 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Army troops and members of the community have arrested six terrorists and seized weapons, explosives, and subversive propaganda in the township of (Tacoto), Caraveli Province.

The Interior Ministry has reported that a combined patrol has arrested (Felix Vilca Silue), (Dario Neira), (Antonio Neira), (Jose Coilla), [name indistinct], and (Alejandro Contreras). The detainees have been placed at the disposal of the National Police of Chala, Arequipa.

Demonstrators Set Off Dynamite; 20 Arrested

PA0202144890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0534 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Lima, 1 Feb (EFE)—The Peruvian police arrested 20 suspects today after several dynamite charges were set off during a workers demonstration in the streets of Lima to protest the government's economic policy.

At least two dynamite charges exploded in front of one of the principal hotels of Lima, while the demonstrators demanded monthly wage readjustments, a freeze in the price of staples, and a "more aggressive" struggle against terrorism and unemployment, witnesses reported.

Those demonstrators who were arrested were turned over to state security organizations by the national police. The dynamite blasts did not cause any material losses or casualties.

The protest march, staged by approximately 5,000 workers, was organized by the communist-leaning General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP). Many leftist legislators participated.

According to the National Statistics Institute (INE), inflation reached 29.8 percent in January.

'Terrorists' Destroy Farm; Take Dynamite

PY0402202890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0047 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Huaraz (Peru), 3 Feb (EFE)—The local National Police have reported that an alleged group of 30 Shining Path terrorists destroyed the facilities of the "Cambal" private livestock farm in the township of Cabana today. The source said that the terrorists killed a large number of cattle but there has been no report on possible casualties.

The guerrillas also attacked the "La Ponderosa" mining center near Cabana and took away 200 boxes of dynamite. Cabana is the capital of Pallasca Province in Ancash Department, north of Lima. Huaraz is the capital of Ancash.

The towns of Pallasca Province have no telephone communications with the rest of the country because the terrorists destroyed an Entelperu [National Telecommunications Enterprise of Peru] microwave tower a few months ago.

Inflation Figures for January Reported

PY0302200290 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Summary] National Statistic Institute Director Felix Murillo Alfaro today reported that the January consumer price index stood at 29.8 percent and that during the past 12 months inflation amounted to 2,433 percent.

Resolution Establishes New Fuel Prices

PY0302201890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The Economy Ministry has issued a resolution that has been published by the official gazette EL PERUANO. The resolution states that as of 0000 today new fuel prices went into effect. The price of 84-octane gasoline has been increased by 15.9 percent and is now 5,450 intis. The price of 95-octane gasoline has been increased by 20.5 percent and is now 8,400 intis. Diesel fuel has been increased from 3,030 intis to 3,620 intis. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

President-Elect To Leave for U.S. 3 Feb

PY0202154890 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle has arranged the details of his visit to the United States. He will depart for that country at 1650 [1950 GMT] on 3 February. This afternoon Lacalle met several advisers and outlined the matters he will propose during his meeting with George Bush, Dan Quayle, and other high-ranking U.S. officials. In the morning Lacalle met with the Australian ambassador.

Issue of Military Appointments 'Creating Unrest'

PY0202030390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0107 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Report by Jorge Figueroa]

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Feb (EFE)—Lieutenant General Guillermo de Nava today occupied the post of Army commander. The Navy and Air Force commanders, however, have not yet been appointed, thus creating unrest within some sectors of the Armed Forces.

The failure to appoint the Navy and Air Force commanders is a result of disagreements between the current administration and the one to be installed on 1 March.

The said commanders will only be appointed after 1 March, when new Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle, who will also be the Armed Forces commander in chief, is installed.

The new president from the National (or Blanco) Party, who won the 26 November elections, did not reach an agreement with current President Julio Maria Sanguinetti of the Colorado Party regarding the appointment of the Navy and Air Force commanders.

The new Army commander joined the Army as an infantryman in 1950. He served at the War School [Escuela de Armas], at the Defense Ministry, and as the governor of [name indistinct] Department during the 1973-85 de facto regime.

After democracy was reestablished in the country, he led the presidency military household and was the 3rd Army Division commander until now.

Lieutenant Colonel Nava replaced Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Berois as Army commander. Berois was placed on the mandatory retirement list after having served as a general for eight years.

Argentine Army Lieutenant General Isidro Caceres attended the installation ceremony as a special guest.

The failure to appoint the Navy and Air Force commanders has created unrest in certain sectors of the Armed Forces.

Air Force Lieutenant General Fernando Arbe, the Air Force commander who is leaving the post, said goodbye today asserting "reasons that are not under our control, and which afflict us, prevent us from handing down this command to a new commander."

As a result of the lack of a political agreement, Deputy Commander Julio C. Loureiro will be acting commander until the president-elect appoints a new Air Force commander.

Defense Minister Lieutenant General Hugo Medina, who is also a former Army commander in chief, has said: "Air Force sensitivity was hurt as a result of the lack of a political accord that would lead to the appointment of an Air Force commander. No military man likes to see party politics interfere in the military career," Medina added.

The minister pointed out that it is not the first time a deputy commander has been acting commander and that there are no rules regarding how long he can occupy the position.

Sources close to the president-elect have commented that Brigadier General Carlos Pace will be the next Air Force commander, thus forcing Deputy Commander Loureiro and Luis Revello to retire.

Rear Admiral Ramon Robatto was appointed acting Navy commander and will replace Rear Admiral Ricardo Largher.